



FRENEMY



Trump questions value of NATO, slams Germany

Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel, French President Emmanuel Macron, Netherlands' Prime Minister Mark Rutte, Norway's Prime Minister Erna Solberg, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, Poland's President Andrzej Duda, Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and U.S. President Donald Trump, from left, pose for a photo during a summit of heads of state and government at NATO headquarters in Brussels on Wednesday, July 11, 2018.

Associated Press
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U.S. soon to leapfrog Saudis, Russia as top oil producer

By DAVID KOENIG
AP Business Writer

The U.S. is on pace to leapfrog both Saudi Arabia and Russia and reclaim the title of the world's biggest oil producer for the first time since the 1970s. The latest forecast from the U.S. Energy Information Administration predicts that U.S. output will grow next year to 11.8 million barrels a day. "If the forecast holds, that would make the U.S. the world's leading producer of crude," says Linda Capuano, who heads the agency, a part of the Energy Department. Saudi Arabia and Russia could upend that forecast by boosting their own production. In the face of rising global oil prices,



In this June 8, 2017, file photo, oil derricks are busy pumping as the moon rises near the La Paloma Generating Station in McKittrick, Calif.

Associated Press

members of the OPEC cartel and a few non-members including Russia agreed last month to ease production caps that had contributed to the run-up in prices. President Donald Trump has urged the Saudis to pump more oil to contain rising prices. He tweeted on June 30 that King Salman agreed to boost production "maybe up to 2,000,000 barrels." The White House later clarified that the king said his country has a reserve of 2 million barrels a day that could be tapped "if and when necessary." "A decade ago the only question was how fast would U.S. production go down," said Daniel Yergin, author of several books about the oil industry including a history, "The Prize." The rebound of U.S. output "has made a huge difference. If this had not happened, we would have had a severe shortage of world oil," he said. The United States led the world in oil production for much of the 20th century, but the Soviet Union surpassed America in 1974, and Saudi Arabia did the same in 1976, according to Energy Department figures. By the end of the 1970s the USSR was producing one-third more oil than the U.S.; by the end of the 1980s,

Soviet output was nearly double that of the U.S. The last decade or so has seen a revolution in American energy production, however, led by techniques including hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, and horizontal drilling. Those innovations — and the breakup of the Soviet Union — helped the U.S. narrow the gap. Last year, Russia produced more than 10.3 million barrels a day, Saudi Arabia pumped just under 10 million, and the U.S. came in under 9.4 million barrels a day, according to U.S. government figures. The U.S. has been pumping more than 10 million barrels a day on average since February, and probably pumped about 10.9 million barrels a day in June, up from 10.8 million in May, the energy agency said Tuesday in its latest short-term outlook. Capuano's agency forecast that U.S. crude output will average 10.8 million barrels a day for all of 2018 and 11.8 million barrels a day in 2019. The current U.S. record for a full year is 9.6 million barrels a day in 1970. The trend of rising U.S. output prompted Fatih Birol, executive director of the International Energy Agency, to predict this spring that the U.S. would leapfrog Russia and become the world's largest producer by next year — if not sooner. One potential obstacle for U.S. drillers is a bottleneck of pipeline capacity to ship oil from the Permian Basin of Texas and New Mexico to ports and refineries. "They are growing the production but they can't get it out of the area fast enough because of pipeline constraints," said Jim Rittersbusch, a consultant to oil traders. Some analysts believe that Permian production could decline, or at least grow more slowly, in 2019 or 2020 as energy companies move from their best acreage to more marginal areas. □

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New San Francisco mayor vows to leave no resident behind



San Francisco Mayor London Breed smiles at the crowd before her inauguration outside City Hall, Wednesday, July 11, 2018, in San Francisco.

Associated Press

By JANIE HAR
Associated Press
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The first black female mayor of San Francisco made history Wednesday as she took the oath of office and outlined an ambitious to-do list to make a city known for immense wealth but also homelessness more prosperous for all. In her inauguration speech, London Breed promised to build more housing in a city that has a woefully inadequate supply for the number of high-paying tech-related jobs it creates. She pledged to address climate change, reform education and improve public transportation. "We have to do all of these things," Breed said outside City Hall before at least 1,000 spectators. "We have to support our small businesses, we have to keep our communities safe, we have to continue to move San Francisco forward, but doing everything we can not to leave one San Franciscan behind."

Breed, 43, vowed to stand by immigrants fearing crackdowns from President Donald Trump's administration and to help drug addicts languishing on city streets, unable to get the aid they need. The new mayor grew up in public housing in the city and frequently talks about the tough love and support she received, especially from a grandmother who raised her but also teachers and civic leaders who spotted her potential. She promised to pay that forward, with opportunities for every child to get paid internships and job training so they also can be part of the city's promising future. "I stand at this podium today because a community believed in me. Because our city services looked out for me," Breed said. "Here in the city of St. Francis, we support one another." After California Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom administered the oath of office on

the steps of City Hall, a line of well-wishers snaked outside the mayor's office for a quick meet-and-greet with Breed. An 8-year-old girl named after the new mayor said she had no idea what she would say when she met her namesake. London Pierce also disputed she was named for Breed, but her aunt quickly corrected her. The reception line is a tradition that started in 1916 with Mayor James "Sunny Jim" Rolph Jr. inside a newly completed City Hall, said Bill Barnes, spokesman for the city administrator's office. The old building had been destroyed in the 1906 earthquake and fire. Breed is only the second woman to serve as mayor. The first was U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who welcomed Breed in a video message. "I know you have the passion, determination and grit to address our city's problems and take us to new heights," Feinstein said. □

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Republicans demand interview with ex-FBI lawyer this week

By **MARY CLARE JALONICK** and **ERIC TUCKER**
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) —

House Republicans have told former FBI lawyer Lisa Page that she must answer questions before two House committees investigating the Justice Department this week or they will begin the process of holding her in contempt of Congress.

Page was subpoenaed to appear for a private interview Wednesday, but her lawyer informed the committees Tuesday that she would not show up. Amy Jeffress said Page had offered to voluntarily appear before the committees later this month, but needed more clarification about what the lawmakers would be asking. Jeffress also said Page had been attempting to access documents at the FBI to prepare for the hearing.

The House Judiciary and Oversight and Government Reform Committees are interested in Page as part of their investigation into what they say is bias at the Justice Department. Page exchanged text messages critical of Donald Trump with FBI agent Peter Strzok, who will testify publicly before the panels Thursday. Page and Strzok both worked on the FBI investigation into Democrat Hillary Clinton's emails and, later, on special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation.

House Judiciary Chairman Robert Goodlatte and House Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Trey Gowdy wrote Jeffress Wednesday evening demanding that Page either appear at the public hearing with Strzok on Thursday or for a private deposition Friday. If she doesn't, the

Republicans said, they will initiate the contempt process at 10:30 a.m. Friday. "We are aware of the is-

by threatening to hold officials there in contempt. But contempt threats were futile earlier this year when

Democrats have strongly objected to the GOP-led investigation, saying it is an attempt to undermine

Strzok were having an affair, which is noted in the Justice Department report. Trump tweeted Wednesday: "Ex-FBI LAYER Lisa Page today defied a House of Representatives issued Subpoena to testify before Congress!

Wow, but is anybody really surprised! Together with her lover, FBI Agent Peter Strzok, she worked on the Rigged Witch Hunt, perhaps the most tainted and corrupt case EVER!"

In a second tweet, Trump wrote: "How can the Rigged Witch Hunt proceed when it was started, influenced and worked on, for an extended period of time, by former FBI Agent/Lover Peter Strzok? Read his hate filled and totally biased Emails and the answer is clear!"

Strzok had a leading role in the Clinton probe and was removed from the Mueller investigation after the texts were discovered a year ago. Page had already left the Mueller team.

As the committees have investigated bias at the Justice Department, they have focused much of their ire on Strzok.

He was interviewed privately by lawmakers on the two committees for 11 hours June 27. When he returns to Capitol Hill for Thursday's hearing he will be speaking publicly about the messages for the first time.

The Judiciary Committee also held a contentious hearing June 28 with FBI Director Christopher Wray and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein. In the hearing, Republicans angrily accused the officials of withholding documents from them and demanded details about surveillance tactics in the Russia investigation. □



House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wis., leaves a news conference following a House Republican Conference meeting on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, July 11.

Associated Press

sues raised regarding access to documents by the FBI," Goodlatte and Gowdy wrote. "We are also aware of committee efforts to schedule your client's appearance for over six months now."

House Speaker Paul Ryan said Wednesday that he backed Goodlatte's efforts to secure Page's testimony. "A subpoena to testify before Congress is not optional, it's mandatory," Ryan said.

Contempt votes are rare in Congress and often largely symbolic. If the full House does vote to hold someone in contempt, the matter then moves to the courts, where it has often stalled. Threats of contempt have had mixed results.

Ryan recently secured the release of some documents by the Justice Department

former White House strategist Steve Bannon refused to answer certain questions before the House intelligence committee, which was investigating Russian election interference. Bannon never answered the questions, and the House never voted on whether to hold him in contempt.

The Judiciary and Oversight panels have already spent much of the summer holding hearings and interviews critical of the FBI and Justice Department. House Republicans have suggested the FBI was conspiring against Trump during and after his presidential campaign, and the two committees are investigating decisions made by the agency and the Justice Department during the election.

Mueller's probe and sway public opinion against investigators.

Trump has seized on Page and Strzok's inflammatory texts, which were detailed in a report by the Justice Department's internal watchdog last month, to paint the FBI and Mueller's investigation as biased. The investigation is looking at Russian ties to Trump's campaign and whether Trump obstructed justice.

The report did not find that the conclusions in the Clinton investigation were tainted by political bias, but criticized Strzok and Page for their conversations. In one of the exchanges, Strzok wrote "we'll stop it" in reference to a potential Trump election win.

The president has also made frequent references to the fact that Page and



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Execution blocked after company objects to use of its drug

By KEN RITTER and MICHELLE L. PRICE

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A Nevada judge effectively blocked the execution of a two-time killer Wednesday after a pharmaceutical company objected to the use of one of its drugs to put someone to death.

Clark County District Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez disallowed the drug in a ruling that came less than nine hours before Scott Raymond Dozier, 47, was to be executed by injection with a three-chemical combination never before tried in the U.S.

State prison officials later called off the 8 p.m. execution, and a judge issued an order indefinitely postponing it.

Despite the maneuvering around him, Dozier had repeatedly expressed his desire to be put to death and had stopped fighting for his life. His attorney did not immediately respond to messages for comment.

At a hearing earlier in the day, New Jersey-based Alvogen urged the judge to block the use of its sedative midazolam, saying

the state illegally secured the product through subterfuge and intended it for unapproved purposes. The pharmaceutical company also raised fears that the drug could lead to a botched execution, citing cases that apparently went awry elsewhere around the country. Todd Bice, an attorney with Alvogen, accused the state of deceptively obtaining the drug by having it shipped to a pharmacy in Las Vegas rather than the state prison in Ely. He said Alvogen had sent a letter to state officials in April telling them it opposes the use of midazolam in executions.

The judge ruled that based on that letter, Alvogen had a reasonable chance of winning its case, and she issued the temporary restraining order. She set another hearing for Sept. 10. Pharmaceutical companies have resisted the use of their drugs in executions for 10 years, citing legal and ethical concerns. But the legal challenge filed by Alvogen is only the second of its kind in the U.S., said Robert Dunham, executive director of the Death Pen-

alty Information Center in Washington.

The previous challenge, brought last year by a different company in Arkansas, was ultimately unsuccessful. Alvogen said in a statement that it was pleased with the ruling and will continue to work through the legal system to ensure its products are not used in executions.

A second pharmaceutical company, Sandoz, also raised objections at Wednesday's hearing to the use of one of its drugs — the muscle-paralyzing substance cisatracurium — in executing Dozier. But the company did not immediately ask to formally join Alvogen's lawsuit.

The third drug in Nevada's combination is fentanyl, the powerful opioid that is blamed for deadly overdoses across the country but has not been used before in an execution. The fentanyl for Dozier's execution was made by Akorn Inc., prisons spokeswoman Brooke Santina said.

Jordan T. Smith, an assistant Nevada solicitor general, countered at Wednesday's hearing that the state didn't



Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez announces her decision at the Regional Justice Center during a hearing on Wednesday, July 11, 2018, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

put up a "smokescreen" or do anything wrong in getting the drugs. He said drugs ordered by the state prison system are regularly shipped to Las Vegas.

"This whole action is just PR damage control," Smith said of Alvogen.

Alvogen's midazolam was substituted in May for Nevada's expired stock of diazepam, commonly known as Valium. The drug is intended to render the inmate unconscious. Under Nevada's new execution protocol, the inmate is next given fentanyl and then ci-

satracurium, one to slow his breathing, the other to stop it. Bice said Alvogen does not take a position on the death penalty itself but opposes the use of the drug in a way that is fundamentally contrary to its purpose — saving and improving lives. In court papers, Alvogen also cited instances in Alabama, Arizona and Oklahoma in the past few years in which inmates given midazolam were left gasping or snorting, appeared to regain consciousness or took an unusually long time to die. □

Loaded gun found atop baby changing table at Utah aquarium

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Utah police want to find the owner of a loaded gun found on a baby changing table in a women's restroom at a suburban Salt Lake City aquarium, but said they don't plan to file charges. Rather, they want to return the .380-caliber pistol found Tuesday.

"I believe it was somebody that just forgot their gun. But, you know, it's not an uncommon occurrence," Draper Police Lt. Chad Carpenter told the Deseret News. He said that people

often leave guns in bathrooms and other places. Parents who came to the Living Planet Aquarium with young children were angry that no one would be held accountable.

Alyssa Fujimoto said she found the weapon and called police when she tried to change her newborn baby with her 4-year-old son in tow.

"My child who came in with me, he usually opens the changing table for me, and this time, he was using the restroom while I went

in. So I went to open it, and if it would've fallen, it was loaded, who knows?" she told the Deseret News.

Fujimoto said the gun left atop the folded-up table

was a "tragedy waiting to happen" and charges should be pressed because the owner was negligent.

Police said she did the right thing when she found the

weapon. "If anybody finds a firearm anywhere, (don't) touch it, call police, keep other people away from it, and wait for police to come," Carpenter said. □

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Official: Warning siren worked, but residents didn't hear it

WATFORD CITY, N.D. (AP) —

All eight outdoor warning sirens in a North Dakota oil patch city were sounded before a deadly tornado ravaged an RV park, but park residents and others said they didn't hear them, authorities said Wednesday.

A newborn baby was killed and more than two dozen people were injured when the storm moved through Watford City shortly after midnight Tuesday. More than 120 structures were demolished.

Karolin Jappe, the McKenzie County emergency manager, said all of the sirens functioned properly, including one within blocks of the RV park.

"When you put a siren in that environment you aren't going to hear that unless you're outside. And nobody would be outside in that weather," Jappe said. "I've never heard a storm that loud in the six years I have been in North Dakota."

Mary Senger, emergency manager for Burleigh County in Bismarck, said it's not unusual for high winds to distort the sound of a siren, which typically has a 1-mile radius. She said the systems are meant to alert people who are engaged in outdoor activities and most of the sirens are placed near parks, sporting venues or other recreational areas.

"The cheapest insurance



In this Tuesday, July 10, 2018 photo, Louis Vallieres searches for clothes and valuables through the wreckage of his mobile home in the Prairie View RV Park in Watford City, N.D., after a tornado whipped through the North Dakota oil patch city overnight, overturning recreational vehicles and demolishing more than 100 structures, officials said Tuesday.

Associated Press

that people can buy is an all-hazard weather radio," Senger said. "We can't promote those things enough." McKenzie County Sheriff Gary Schwarzenberger said he lives on a hill overlooking the park and he didn't hear the sirens.

"When it went over our house it sounded just like a 757 jet engine," Schwarzenberger said. "It was crazy. I didn't think it was going to be that loud and that strong."

Prairie View RV park resident Clifford Bowden said he and his neighbors didn't

hear sirens but someone he knows who lives across town heard them.

"It was pretty calm on that side of town," Bowden said. Ken Simosko, National Weather Service meteorologist in Bismarck, said a severe thunderstorm warning with the possibility of a tornado was issued about 60 minutes in advance of the storm. He declined to talk about what impact the storm would have on the sound of warning sirens.

Schwarzenberger said there are numerous shelters in the city, some of them

within minutes of the RV park.

The tornado destroyed 122 structures and damaged about 200 more, though about 120 are still habitable, Mike Nowatzki, spokesman for Gov. Doug Burgum, said Wednesday. Schwarzenberger reported to Burgum and other officials late Tuesday that the boy who was killed was the son of Marisa Reber and Will Maguire, according to The Bismarck Tribune. A GoFundMe account set up for the couple showed more than 250 people had do-

nated more than \$14,200 as of early Wednesday.

Lt. Matthew Watkins of the McKenzie County Sheriff's Office said the number of people injured stood at 29 on Wednesday afternoon, but he expected that number to rise. Nine of those are in critical condition, he said.

National Weather Service meteorologist John Paul Martin classified the tornado as an EF2, which is defined by wind speeds between 111 and 135 mph. Wind speeds reached 127 mph in Watford City, damaging mobile homes and overturning campers in the RV park that sprung up during the recent oil boom.

About 150 people went to the Watford City Civic Center where the Red Cross set up a shelter after the storm. About 60 people including 14 children remained there early Wednesday, according to spokeswoman Gretchen Hjelmstad. The Red Cross is opening a resource center at the Watford City Civic Center for individuals and families affected by the storm, which will be open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday.

Schwarzenberger said cleanup efforts "with equipment and manpower" were in full swing Wednesday.

"Things are kind of controlled chaos this morning," he said. "It is a pretty somber day." □

Hawaii Supreme Court sides with lesbian couple in B&B case



In this Dec. 19, 2011 file photo, Taeko Bufford, left, and Diane Cervelli pose for a photo near Waikiki beach in Honolulu.

Associated Press

By AUDREY McAVOY
Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — A Hawaii appeals court ruling that a bed and breakfast discriminated by denying a room to two women because they're gay will stand after the state's high court declined to take up the case. Aloha Bed & Breakfast owner Phyllis Young had argued she should be allowed to turn away gay couples because of her religious beliefs.

But the Hawaii Supreme Court on Tuesday unanimously rejected Young's appeal of a lower court

ruling that ordered her to stop discriminating against same-sex couples.

Young is considering her options for appeal, said Jim Campbell, senior counsel for Alliance Defending Freedom, a conservative Christian law firm that is representing her. "Everyone should be free to live and work according to their religious convictions — especially when determining the living arrangements in their own home," Campbell said in an emailed statement.

Peter Renn, who represents the couple, said the Hawaii high court's order indicates

the law hasn't changed even after the U.S. Supreme Court last month, in a limited decision, sided with a Colorado baker who refused to make a wedding cake for a same-sex couple.

He said "there still is no license to discriminate."

"The government continues to have the power to protect people from the harms of discrimination, including when it's motivated by religion," said Renn, who is a senior attorney with Lambda Legal, an organization that defends LGBTQ rights. □



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ASHORE TO ASSIST ON HOLIDAY

Firefighter killed in gas explosion, fire near Madison



In a view looking northwest from above, the aftermath of a gas explosion in downtown Sun Prairie, Wis., is seen Wednesday, July 11, 2018.

By TODD RICHMOND

Associated Press

SUN PRAIRIE, Wis. (AP) — A massive natural gas explosion killed a firefighter and leveled portions of a city block in a southern Wisconsin community, including a bar the firefighter owned, authorities said Wednesday.

The blast in downtown Sun Prairie on Tuesday evening also injured at least 11 other people and left residents of the Madison suburb wondering how they'll put their downtown back together. "It's just hard to look at the pictures (of the explosion and ruined downtown) and see what our city looks like now," resident Erin Updike said.

The blast happened after police got a call at 6:30 p.m. that a construction crew working on a downtown street had punctured a WE Energies natural gas line. Police and firefighters arrived to investigate and were evacuating the

area when the gas exploded shortly after 7 p.m. The blast ignited four-story high flames that burned long into the night and belched a smoke plume visible for miles.

At least five buildings were damaged, including the Barr House tavern, Glass Nickel Pizza and a steak restaurant, according to a news release on the city's website.

Sun Prairie Fire Department Capt. Cory Barr, 34, was caught in the explosion as he was working to evacuate people from the area, Fire Chief Chris Garrison said during a news conference Wednesday evening. Barr died after he was transported to a local hospital, the Dane County Medical Examiner's Office said in a news release.

Barr had been with the department for 15 years. He also worked as a real estate agent and owned the Barr House. Garrison said Barr and his fellow fire-

fighters and police evacuated 115 people before the blast. The chief choked up as he spoke and had to take a long pause to gather himself.

"We didn't lose a firefighter yesterday," he said. "We lost a family member."

Barr's wife, Abby Barr, said in a statement that Cory Barr was "the best husband a girl could ask for" and lived his life by the motto "happy wife, happy life." The couple was raising twin daughters who just turned 3 years old. She said the girls would run up to him screaming "Daddy's home!" whenever he walked through the door.

"He was so outgoing, goofy, big-hearted, and would give the shirt off his back to anyone," she said. "To say that our family is devastated and heart-broken is an understatement." Gov. Scott Walker toured the blast area Wednesday evening, telling reporters at the news conference that

the entire state was behind Abby Barr and her children. "On behalf of the whole state, we say we love you," the governor said.

Authorities said five other firefighters, a police officer and five civilians were hurt and transported to a hospital. The firefighters included two who were caught in the blast with Barr.

All had been released by Wednesday evening except for one firefighter, who was upgraded from critical to stable condition, Sun Prairie Emergency Medical Services Chief Brian Goff said.

Authorities and WE Energies did not release the name of the company that was doing the construction work. Police Lt. Kevin

Konopacki said during the news conference that investigators are in the midst of a complex probe and no information would be released.

Steve DePula, owner of Salvatore's Tomato Pies restaurant about a half-block from the fire, said he and Barr both served on a downtown business committee. He described Barr as a champion of downtown issues who worked to both preserve Sun Prairie and transform the city into a travel destination.

"He was very, very proud of Sun Prairie and the community he lived in," DePula said. "It's a testament that he served as a firefighter to how much he cared about the community." □



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Trump Rattles Nato, knocking its value , assailing Germany

By JONATHAN LEMIRE
JILL COLVIN

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — In a combative start to his NATO visit, President Donald Trump asserted Wednesday that a pipeline project has made Germany “totally controlled” by and “captive to Russia” and blasted NATO allies’ defense spending, opening what was expected to be a fraught summit with a list of grievances involving American allies.

Trump, in a testy exchange with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, took issue with the U.S. protecting Germany when the European nation is making deals with Russia.

“I have to say, I think it’s very sad when Germany makes a massive oil and gas deal with Russia where we’re supposed to be guarding against Russia,” Trump said during a breakfast with Stoltenberg, his first event since arriving in Brussels. “We’re supposed to protect you against Russia but they’re paying billions of dollars to Russia and I think that’s very inappropriate.”

The president appeared to be referring to the Nord Stream 2 pipeline that would bring gas from Russia to Germany’s northeastern Baltic coast, bypassing Eastern European nations like Poland and Ukraine and doubling the amount of gas Russia can send directly to Germany. The vast undersea pipeline is opposed by the U.S. and some other EU members, who warn it could give Moscow greater leverage over Western Europe.

Trump said that, “Germany, as far as I’m concerned,



U.S. President Donald Trump, listens to NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, during their bilateral breakfast, Wednesday July 11, 2018 in Brussels, Belgium.

is captive to Russia” and urged NATO to look into the issue. Trump, who has been accused of being too cozy with Putin — a man accused of U.S. election meddling — was expected to see German Chancellor Angela Merkel later in the day. Stoltenberg pushed back, stressing that NATO members have been able to work together despite their differences.

The dramatic exchange set the tone for what was already expected to be a tense day of meetings with leaders of the military alliance. Trump is expected to continue hammering jittery NATO allies about their military spending during the summit meeting, which comes amid increasingly frayed relations between the “America first” president and the United States’ closest traditional allies.

“The United States is paying far too much and other countries are not paying

enough, especially some. So we’re going to have a meeting on that,” Trump said as he arrived at the breakfast, describing the situation as “disproportionate and not fair to the taxpayers of the United States and we’re going to make it fair.”

“They will spend more,” he later predicted. “I have great confidence they’ll be spending more.”

Trump has been pushing NATO members to reach their agreed-to target of spending 2 percent of their gross domestic products on national defense by 2024 and has accused those who don’t of freeloading off the U.S.

“Many countries in NATO, which we are expected to defend, are not only short of their current commitment of 2% (which is low), but are also delinquent for many years in payments that have not been made,” he tweeted Tuesday while

en route to Europe, asking: “Will they reimburse the U.S.?”

That’s not how the spending words. The 2 percent represents the amount each country aims to spend on its own defense, not some kind of direct payment to NATO or the U.S.

NATO estimates that 15 members, or just over half, will meet the benchmark by 2024 based on current trends.

During his campaign, Trump called NATO “obsolete” and suggested the U.S. might not come to the defense of members if they found themselves under attack — a shift that would represent a fundamental realignment of the modern world order. He also called Brussels a “hell hole” and “a mess.” Trump has moderated his language somewhat since taking office, but has continued to dwell on the issue, even as many NATO members have agreed to

up their spending.

Stoltenberg, for his part, credited Trump for spurring NATO nations to spend more on defense, noting that the Europeans and Canada are projected to spend around \$266 billion more by 2024.

“We all agree that we have to do more,” he said, describing last year as marking the biggest increase in defense spending across Europe and Canada in a generation.

Trump interjecting, asking Stoltenberg why he thought that had happened. Arriving for his meeting, Trump had taken credit for the spending, telling the NATO chief that “because of me they’ve raised about \$40 billion over the last year. So I think the secretary general likes Trump. He may be the only one, but that’s OK with me.” Trump was also participating in a welcome ceremony, a meeting of the North Atlantic Council and a working dinner with some of the same leaders he berated over trade during his last world leaders summit in Canada last month.

Brussels is the first stop of a week-long European tour that will include stops in London and Scotland, as well as a highly anticipated meet with Russia’s Vladimir Putin.

Trump predicted as he departed Washington that the “easiest” leg of his journey would be his scheduled sit-down Putin — a comment that did little to reassure allies fretting over his potential embrace of a Russian leader. U.S. intelligence officials accuse of meddling in the 2016 elections to help Trump win. □



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The case of the 141-year-old voter: Zimbabwe ballot at risk

By FARAI MUTSAKA

Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) —

The world's oldest person is 141 years of age and lives in Zimbabwe. Not far behind is a 134-year-old, also in Zimbabwe. At least that's according to the country's voters' roll, which has come under sharp scrutiny ahead of the July 30 election, the first in decades without longtime leader Robert Mugabe.

The main opposition party has called the voters' roll deeply flawed and the most prominent sign that the election's credibility is at risk. On Wednesday, thousands of people rallied in the capital, Harare, to call for more transparency, dancing and waving signs saying "No reforms, no elections."

While President Emmerson Mnangagwa, who took power when Mugabe was pressured to step down in November, and the election commission have pledged a free and fair election, the issues with the voters' roll have many worried that Zimbabwe's government is failing to break with a long past of alleged election fraud.

The strikingly old voters are just one concern. The voters' roll also shows more than 100 people registered at a single address and has multiple people sharing a single ID number, according to the main opposition's chief election agent, Jameson Timba.

"We are not going to compromise," main opposition leader Nelson Chamisa told the crowd on Wednes-



Thousands of opposition party supporters march on the streets of Harare, Wednesday, July 11, 2018.

day, accusing the election commission, the military and Mnangagwa of trying to rig the vote. Chamisa is in a coalition with several smaller parties that also took part in the rally, delivering a petition with their demands to the election commission's office.

"Next time we hold a demonstration, no one is going back home until our demands are met. We will camp here," Chamisa said. The opposition's suspicions extend to the ballots' printing, storage, design and even paper quality.

Confidence in the election has run so low that the opposition encourages its supporters to carry their own pens into the voting booths because they don't trust the ones provided.

Mnangagwa, a longtime ally of Mugabe until he was

fired as a result of a ruling party feud, is under pressure to deliver a free and fair election as a key step in lifting years of international sanctions.

Zimbabwe's past elections have been marked by accusations of violence and fraud. Mugabe banned Western election observers but Mnangagwa has welcomed them for the first time in almost two decades. Observers from the European Union and United States have raised concerns that are similar to the opposition's although, in a break from the past, this year's election has been largely free of violence.

Mnangagwa, his ruling ZANU-PF party and the election commission are defending the credibility of the vote. The electoral commission chairwoman,

Priscilla Chigumba, has rebuffed the opposition's demands, which include touching the ballot paper or examining it closely. Party representatives were allowed to view the ballot printing process from a distance last month, she said. People had to watch from about 10 meters away, said another opposition candidate, Noah Manyika. Political parties physically inspecting the ballot paper is unlawful, Chigumba, a former High Court judge, told reporters on Monday, calling the opposition demands "an abuse of the right to transparency." The election commission chairwoman also has denied problems with the voters' roll, which was released to opposition parties and the public only after pressure and a court ruling.

The commission has said any mistakes in the roll are being corrected. The case of the single address with more than 100 registered voters "is in fact a church shrine with 122 voters," Chigumba said.

Winning confidence in the remaining weeks before the vote will be a challenge. According to a survey released over the weekend by the Zimbabwe Council of Churches, 58 percent of registered voters do not trust the elections commission. The churches surveyed more than 1,600 people from Bulawayo, an opposition stronghold, and Midlands province, which has a mix of opposition and ruling party supporters.

While Mugabe is gone, "the regime remains," said Munyaradzi Gwisai, a political analyst and law lecturer at the University of Zimbabwe. "If anything, the hard men and hard women of that regime are the ones who have taken power and they are now in charge, so very little has changed." □



Peace in Afghanistan more elusive as Taliban shrug off talks

By **RAHIM FAIEZ**
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)

— With the Taliban shrugging off the Afghan government's latest offers of a cease-fire and negotiations, peace seems as elusive as it has been for decades in this war-battered country, both for troops on the front lines and for civilians facing frequent attacks.

The Taliban have been gaining more ground in their annual spring offensive, ignoring President Ashraf Ghani's calls for talks. Hoping to end the nearly 17-year war, he had offered unprecedented incentives, including passports for insurgents and their families.

Ghani had also offered to work toward removing international sanctions against the group's leaders and allowing the Taliban to open official headquarters in the capital, Kabul.

But for that to happen, he stressed, a cease-fire must first be agreed on and the Taliban have to become a political group rather than an armed insurgency.

In June, the Taliban accepted a three-day cease-fire over the Eid al-Fitr holiday that caps the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, a first for the group, but rejected a subsequent government call to extend it.

They maintain the only talks they would take part in would be with the United States on their key demand: the withdrawal of all American forces from Afghanistan.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid recently reiterated the insurgents' standing line that "the Americans are the ones continuing the war, supporting our enemies and bombing our country."

"So, if there are talks, they should be with them (Americans)," Mujahid told The Associated Press over the phone. "Otherwise they won't have any results."

Since the start of the year, the Taliban have intensified their attacks. On Jan. 27, a suicide bomber drove



In this June 16, 2018 file photo, Taliban fighters gather with residents to celebrate a three-day cease fire marking the Islamic holiday Eid al-Fitr, in Nangarhar, Afghanistan.

an ambulance packed with explosives through a Kabul checkpoint, killing more than 100 people and wounding as many as 235. The Taliban claimed that attack, as well as another, a week earlier, in which militants stormed a luxury hotel in Kabul, killing 22 people, including 14 foreigners, and setting off a 13-hour gun-battle with security forces. On Wednesday, two suicide bombers stormed an education department building in eastern Nangarhar province, killing at least 10 people. It was not immediately clear who was behind the attack, but both the Taliban and an Islamic State affiliate are active in the province.

At a June gathering in Kabul, the Afghan Ulema Council — an organization of Muslim clerics and scholars — issued an edict against suicide attacks, saying they are "haram," forbidden under Islamic law.

As the gathering wrapped up and the clerics were about to disband, another suicide bomber struck near the site, killing seven peo-

ple.

Though that attack was claimed by the Islamic State affiliate in Afghanistan, the Taliban issued a statement denouncing the conference and others like it as an "American process" and urged clerics to reject such gatherings.

The Taliban have meanwhile expanded their reach in the countryside. According to Mujahid, they now control 54 out of 388 districts across the country, with five districts seized in this year's spring offensive. At least seven out of 14 districts in the southern Helmand province are completely under Taliban control. Analysts say about 80 percent of Helmand — prized for its vast opium poppy fields — has been under Taliban control since 2004, though urban centers had remained under government control.

Interior Ministry spokesman Najib Danish denies the Taliban's claim, saying they control just 11 districts in the entire country.

But even Washington's own Special Inspector General for Afghan Reconstruction,

or SIGAR, says more than half of Afghanistan is either under direct Taliban control or under their influence. The U.S. and NATO have steadily drawn down forces in recent years from a peak of nearly 150,000, and in 2014 they shifted to a support and counterterrorism role. Afghan security forces, which number 195,000 soldiers and more than 150,000 police, have struggled to combat the insurgency.

The pressure is on to get some sort of peace process off the ground.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo used an unannounced trip to Afghanistan on Monday to step up the Trump administration's calls for peace talks.

"The region and the world are all tired of what is taking place here in the same way that the Afghan people are no longer interested in seeing war," Pompeo said.

Meanwhile, a conference of religious scholars organized by the Saudi-based Organization of Islamic Cooperation called for a new cease-fire in Afghanistan.

Associated Press

The request, which came at the end of the 57-nations' two-day meeting Wednesday, had already been dismissed by the Taliban.

NATO leaders will be discussing Afghanistan on Thursday at their summit in Brussels during which the alliance is expected to make a commitment to keep funding the Afghan army and its training mission.

But many rank-and-file Afghan troops are bitter at the dim peace prospects.

"The president gave them (Taliban) a chance and announced a cease-fire, but despite this they attacked our checkpoints, ambushed our forces and nothing changed," says Mohammad Din, a 27-year-old policeman in northern Kunduz province who has been in uniform for the past seven years.

Abdul Agha, 33, lost his right arm and both eyes in eastern Logar province when his convoy hit a roadside bomb three years ago. The former policeman said he has not been able to see his two daughters, born after the attack. □

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China sentences veteran rights activist to 13 years' prison

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN
Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China on Wednesday sentenced a veteran pro-democracy campaigner to 13 years in prison on vaguely defined subversion charges, one day after releasing the widow of a Nobel Peace Prize laureate after eight years of house arrest.

The People's Intermediate Court in the central city of Wuhan announced the sentencing of Qin Yongmin, whose activism dates back four decades, on its official website Wednesday. No further details were given and it was not immediately clear who was representing Qin in court.

On Tuesday, authorities allowed Liu Xia, wife of the late Nobel Prize winner Liu Xiaobo, to depart for Germany in response to what the Chinese Foreign Ministry called her own request to receive medical treatment. Liu had been held under house arrest since late 2010. Coming during a visit by China's Premier Li Keqiang to Germany, Liu's release heartened foreign governments and human rights campaigners, who pointed out that she had never been charged with or convicted of any crime. Qin's sentencing, however, underscores China's hard line against anyone challenging the ruling Communist Party, which under leader Xi Jinping has launched the most sweeping crackdown on civil rights in years.

Having already spent more than two decades in de-



In this Dec. 27, 2017 photo, pro-democracy activists hold pictures of Chinese activists Qin Yongmin and Wu Gan at the central government's liaison office in Hong Kong.

tention, Qin was arrested most recently in 2015 but not tried until May this year. The 64-year-old became active in the pro-democracy movement in the late 1970s during a time of political opening, and was arrested for the first time in 1981 in the ensuing Communist Party crackdown on dissent, according to the group Chinese Human Rights Defenders.

Reached by phone, Qin's former lawyer, Ma Lianshun, called the ruling "completely illegal" and a violation of the constitution's guarantee of the right to free speech. He said the charges appeared to relate to writings Qin had posted online and published outside China.

"It is not a criminal activity. He was discussing the road that China can take and

the corresponding methodology, which is within the boundary of his right to speech," Ma said.

Ma said his firm ceased representing Qin on July 10, 2017, due to the sensitivity of his case. A three-year campaign against legal activists that landed scores in detention has frightened many lawyers from taking on such causes.

His sentence is "a reminder that Xi Jinping's brutal crackdown on human rights continues," said Frances Eve, a researcher with Chinese Human Rights Defenders. Authorities denied Qin a fair trial, Eve said, proceeding with a hearing in May despite the man's poor health.

"The litany of abuses in his case, ranging from enforced disappearance, prolonged pre-trial deten-

tion, collective punishment of his wife, ill-treatment, and denied due process rights reinforces that there is still no rule of law in China," Eve said.

Qin's sentence also comes just a day after the EU and China concluded a human rights dialogue. In a statement sent Wednesday, the EU said that during the two-day talks, it emphasized the "deteriorating situation of civil and political rights in China, which has been accompanied by the detention and conviction of a significant number of Chinese human rights defenders."

Also Wednesday, the director of China's most prominent independent economic research group said it has been evicted from an apartment it used as an office.

The Unirule Institute of Economics, which advocates for market-style economics and constitutional democracy, has been repeatedly harassed by communist authorities. Its website and social media accounts were shut down in January. On Tuesday, Unirule's landlord locked its employees out of the apartment even though the group has a lease through 2020, said Sheng Hong. He said the landlord has been demanding the group move out, but he suspected Chinese authorities were behind the pressure.

"It might be that some Chinese ideology departments don't like our views and research," said Sheng, who co-founded Unirule in 1993.

"It is fine for them to dislike our articles and studies, but there should be different voices in society and it is supposed to be protected by the constitution."

The group has published reports that say major Chinese state-owned companies are unprofitable and receive large public subsidies.

Unirule has also championed freedom of expression and due process and conducted symposiums on sensitive subjects such as the Chinese civil war that brought the communists to power in 1949.

"Never before has Unirule been so alone in its fight for liberty in China, and the rule of law so jeopardized by the authorities that ordered such heinous act," said a statement on the group's Twitter account. □

Hugs and sobs: Families separated in US return to Guatemala

By COLLEEN LONG

Associated Press

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) —

Donelda Pulex stepped off the airplane into the sun, clutching her 5-year-old daughter's hand and burst into heaving sobs. Fourteen-year-old Hermelindo Juarez hid his face as his father comforted him. Efilio Daniel Vasquez walked cautiously behind his 8-year-old son.

Quiet, confused and exhausted, 11 families who had been detained and separated after they were caught crossing the U.S. border illegally returned home Tuesday to Guatemala aboard a U.S. government-chartered flight that read "World Atlantic."

Greeted by first lady Patricia Marroquin, they lined up on the tarmac, shuffling — their shoelaces had been taken as a security precaution. U.S. immigration officials handed over paperwork in manila envelopes to Guatemalan officials. The group walked single-file into a squat gray building at the country's military base to be processed back into their country, along with dozens of others also deported.

Chartered flights full of deportees from the United States regularly arrive in the Central American country, but Tuesday's flight was among the first containing families separated at the border under President Donald Trump's contentious zero tolerance policy. More than 2,300 children were separated from their families before a June 20 order stopping the practice.

While some Central Ameri-



Families separated under President Donald Trump administration's zero tolerance policy return home to Guatemala City, Guatemala, Tuesday, July 10, 2018.

Associated Press

can migrants say they were fleeing to protect their families from severe violence, parents who spoke with The Associated Press said they made the difficult, dangerous journey to the U.S. for a better life. They were seeking a chance at a steady job or a better education for their children.

They didn't know they'd be separated from their kids under the policy that criminally prosecuted anyone caught crossing the border illegally. Trump administration officials had said the policy was necessary to deter a growing number of families from Central America who were crossing illegally. But the president backed off following a national and international

uproar, ordering an end to the separations on June 20. While frustrated that their difficult journeys had ended in failure, the families were relieved their ordeals were over.

Pulex said she spent nearly two months apart from her daughter, waiting in an El Paso, Texas, detention center, first for the resolution of her criminal case and later for deportation proceedings.

"It was a great torment," she said, wiping tears away. "I did not know if I would ever see my daughter again. I thought she was taken from me forever." Her little girl, Marelyn, dressed in a pristine white sweater and blue chiffon skirt, said she spoke to her mother by

phone from a foster care home in Michigan.

"My mother, she was so sad. She would cry for me, and I would tell her, Mami, everything is OK, I am OK. I will see you soon," the little girl said. She said the people who cared for her were kind, and treated her well, but she missed her mother. "I am happy to be back with her," she said.

Inside the military base, the families were steered into a crowded, hot room with rows of folding chairs and big whirring fans. Each chair had a brown paper bag with a sandwich, chips, an orange soda and bottle of water. The families were told by social workers they would have medical screenings and go through a paperwork process before they were given bus vouchers home. Eventually, they'd walk down a short outdoor hall and through a metal door leading them back into Guatemala City. Some lived more than seven hours away in the mountains.

Single adults were in a larger room, where they waited in line to be processed. Their belongings, taken from them at the U.S. border, were piled in back, mostly black duffels and

red plastic bags.

About 75 people were aboard the flight, and the AP asked at least two dozen adults whether they had children left behind in the U.S. either on purpose or because they were deported without them. All said no. There have been other reports of parents deported without their children.

In one case, Elsa Ortiz Enriquez said recently in Guatemala that she was deported last month without her 8-year-old, Anthony David Tovar Ortiz. The boy was in a shelter for migrant children in Houston.

Inside the immigration complex, Pulex helped Marelyn drink from a water bottle, and then pulled the little girl's hand up to her heart and kissed it. Another father held his son as the little boy closed his eyes. Two little girls opened up Snickers bars that were handed out. In the back row, Hermelindo Juarez told his father, Deivin Juarez, he was so very tired.

The two made the trip north in early May, and they spent almost two weeks on the road with barely any food.

"We were starving," Juarez said. "The frontier, it is a trying place."

Hermelindo said he didn't know where he was going when he was separated, and the two did not have good communications during their time apart. He had been sent to a shelter in Tucson, Arizona, where he said he was treated very well. He studied and played soccer. The air conditioning made him a bit cold, he said, but he got used to it.

"I felt comfortable there," he said. There were children there from Brazil, from India, from Guatemala. He didn't know how many had been separated from parents or how many had made the journey alone. There are more than 10,000 children in U.S. care who crossed the border alone.

Juarez and the others said they paid thousands of dollars to smugglers, and would not likely try the journey again anytime soon. □

Spanish fishing vessel sinks off Argentina; 25 rescued

Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

(AP) — A Spanish fishing trawler sank in rough weather off the coast of Argentina and at least one crewmember died, Argentina's Navy said Wednesday. Twenty-five crewmembers were rescued and one was missing.

The Navy issued a statement saying it was alerted Tuesday night that the Dorneda was in trouble. Early in the morning, the Spanish fishing trawler Faruco found two life rafts and a lifeboat with crewmembers from Spain, Peru, Morocco and Indonesia aboard. The British-flagged Beagle I also participated

in the rescue and was taking the survivors to shore in Puerto Madryn, some 800 miles (1,300 kilometers) south of Buenos Aires. The Navy said it was still searching for the missing crewmember. Navy spokesman Enrique Balbi said the ship apparently took on water during rough weather. □

LOCAL



Made in Aruba, Unique Gifts from Local Artisans

ORANJESTAD — They are right at the hotels and offer unique, locally manufactured artisan products. Foundation Aruba is organizing an art market that gives you the opportunity to admire and/or purchase some genuine products, all locally produced by local artisans. "This is not your regular souvenir that you may encounter in various Caribbean destinations, this is made in Aruba and only offered here", says Wendy Op De Weegh, one of the board members of the foundation.

Wendy Op De Weegh, Tia Hurkmans and Gabriella Gonzalez are the three board members of Foundation Aruba, all artisans themselves. Wendy: "I start-



ed making my own beads of glass and that triggered Tia and Gaby to join. We were friends and we noticed that we needed a platform to present our art. We were occasionally organizing events at home, but we were looking for more public." That is how the three came to the idea to find more local artisans



and encountered a foundation that was in a kind of non-active state. They decided to take over and that is how it all started. "2013 our first organized event happened at Fort Zoutman in Oranjestad with Christmas time. It was a big success and from that time on it really took off. More and more artisans were engaged and the government also initiated the national seal for artisan products at that time and provided us with a list of artisans that were registered."

Your Vacation Memory

The aim of the foundation is to engage the artisans that create smaller pieces, locally produced and linked to Aruba. The perfect gift or souvenir. Think of jewelry in different materials, art with driftwood, soap and skin care, small paintings and so on. There is the jewelry made of the tail fin of lion fish by Lionfantastic. Lionfish are an invasive species from the Pacific and Indian Ocean, voracious eaters with no known



predators. The handmade soap and skin care from olive oil and shea butter by CC Bath & Body is another unique gift as well as the wonderful jewelry made by recycled materials of Miljenou Tromp. Gloria Filiciana creates awesome artisan jewelry from among others genuine Aruban sea glass and what to think of a necklace of driftwood,

created by Wise Wood. Turning a discarded material into a unique art craft is what Cemur offers you. But there is much more. You really need to check it out for yourselves as this is your chance to bring home a real piece of Aruba. The best vacation memory or genuine gift.

The artisans market is on Mondays at Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort between 4.30 and 6.30 PM, at Tuesdays and Thursdays between 6 and 9 PM at the Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino and at Fridays between 7 and 10 PM at the Renaissance Marketplace in Oranjestad. Check their Facebook Foundation Aruba for more information. □





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Aruba Marriott donates AFL. 25,000 to the 'Stimami Sterilisami' Program



PALM BEACH — During the last two months, the associates of Aruba Marriott put their efforts together to raise funds for the 'Stimami Sterilisami' program, in an effort to improve animal welfare and reduce the amount of stray dogs and cats on the island. The dedicated associates and their families, volunteered to organize three different activities to reach the goal of 25,000 Aruban Florins.

The first activity was a dog walk where a total of 110 participants and 30 dogs walked for a cause and also got the opportunity to purchase t-shirts, dog treats and dog bandanas. The second activity was a flea market and food sale held at the parking lot of Do It Super Center, where Aruba Marriott associates and different organizations including the Sales & Marketing team of the Marriott Vacation Club and Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort generously donated items to

sell during the market and Caribbean Overseas and Tropical Bottling Ltd. made generous donations for the food sale. Additionally, The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba donated t-shirts for this event and Disney

Recreation was present to entertain the kids. The third activity was a Duck Race, held at Marriott's Aruba Surf Club's lazy river. Associates and the local community bought ducks for the race and the first



10 ducks to reach the finish line got the opportunity to win great prizes. All funds collected from these three activities has been officially donated to the 'Stimami Sterilisami' program.

The 'Stimami Sterilisami' movement aims to reduce the amount of stray dogs and cats on the island by sponsoring the costs of spaying and neutering and by raising awareness with-

in the community on the importance of providing proper care for pets. Additionally, dog owners can register for a special price for spaying and neutering through this program.

The staff and management of the Aruba Marriott would like to thank Do It Super Center, the Sales & Marketing team of the Marriott Vacation Club, Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Caribbean Overseas, Tropical Bottling Ltd., The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba, Ministry of Infrastructure and Disney Recreation for their kindness extended to this very important cause.

About Aruba Marriott:

Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino opened its door in 1995 with 411 guestrooms. In 1999 the Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club opened its door with 311 guestrooms and in 2004 Marriott's Aruba Surf Club was opened with 900 guestrooms. The Aruba Marriott family consists of about 1100 associates. The Aruba Marriott Complex is the largest in the Caribbean in terms of total guestrooms as well total employees. □

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Aruba Marriott donates Afl. 25,000 to the 'Stimami Sterilisami' Program



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CBA presents Net Foreign Assets summary



ORANJESTAD — In February 2018, money supply expanded by Afl. 49.1 million to Afl. 4,332.6 million, compared to January 2018, resulting from increases in both net domestic assets (+Afl. 23.5 million) and net foreign assets (+Afl. 25.6 million). The rise in the domestic component of the money supply stemmed from an increase in domestic credit (+Afl. 51.2 million) and a decrease in non-credit related balance sheet items (-Afl. 27.7 million).

The expansion in domestic credit was caused by increases in both the net claims of the banking sector on the public sector (+Afl. 37.1 million), mainly because of a reduction in the deposits of the government (-Afl. 41.9 million), and in the claims on the private sector (+Afl. 14.1 million), due to increases in loans to enterprises (+Afl. 8.4 million) and housing mortgages (+Afl. 8.0 million), and a drop in consumer credit (-Afl. 2.4 million).

The increase in the net for-

foreign assets of the banking sector resulted from net purchases of foreign exchange (+Afl. 233.0 million) from the public, mainly associated with foreign exchange revenue from tourism activities. These were largely offset by net sales of foreign exchange (-Afl. 207.4 million) to the public, related to goods, and net transfers to foreign accounts.

Inflation

The consumer price index (CPI) for February 2018 noted a 1.9 percent increase year-over-year (YOY). The main contributors to this rise were the components "Transport" and "Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages". Excluding the effect of food and energy, the core CPI rose by 0.9 percent (YOY). The 12-month average inflation rate was -0.2 percent in February 2018, compared to -0.4 percent in January 2018.

Tourism

The number of stay over visitors amounted to 85,017 in February 2018, which is 854 more visitors (+1.0 percent)

than in February 2017. This growth was mainly attributed to an expansion in the North American market, largely due to a rise in arrivals from the United States (+4,251 visitors or +7.5 percent). The latter was largely counterbalanced by a reduction in the Latin American market mainly because of a contraction in arrivals from Venezuela (-4,098 visitors or -75.6 percent).

The number of cruise visi-

tors increased by 7,883 passengers or 8.6 percent to 99,303 in February 2018, compared to February 2017. The number of ship calls expanded from 38 in February 2017 to 41 in February 2018.

Government

Total government revenue amounted to Afl. 79.8 million in February 2018, Afl. 12.5 million more than the same month of the previous year.

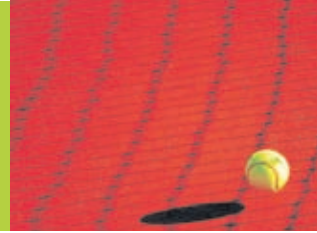
This outcome resulted from

a rise in tax revenue (+Afl. 13.0 million) and a decrease in non tax revenue (-Afl. 0.5 million).

The rise in tax revenue was mainly related to increases in income from excises on gasoline (+Afl. 5.2 million), wage tax (+Afl. 3.1 million), import duties (+Afl. 1.9 million) and turnover tax (B.B.O.) (+Afl. 1.5 million). These increases were partly offset by a decrease in revenues from motor vehicle fees (-Afl. 1.9 million). □



SPORTS



Kevin Anderson of South Africa reacts after losing a point in his men's quarterfinals match against Switzerland's Roger Federer, at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, in London, Wednesday July 11, 2018.

Associated Press

Federer stunned in Wimbledon QF; Nadal, Djokovic, Isner win

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer

LONDON (AP) — Roger Federer was a point away from a rather tidy, straight-set victory in the Wimbledon quarterfinals. One lousy point.

And then, slowly, over the next two-plus hours, all the way until the fifth set reached its 24th game, as the temperature dropped and the spectators' cries of "Let's go, Roger!" echoed through the shadows, everything came apart for the eight-time champion. In a stunning turnaround in an unfamiliar setting — No. 1 Court instead of Centre Court — the top-seeded Federer blew a third-set match point and, eventually, all of his big lead in a 2-6, 6-7 (5), 7-5, 6-4, 13-11 loss to No. 8 Kevin Anderson on Wednesday in a 4-hour, 14-minute tussle.

Continued on Page 18

LONDON FALLING



Croatia beats England 2-1 in extra time

England's players react at the end of the semifinal match between Croatia and England at the 2018 soccer World Cup in the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow, Russia, Wednesday, July 11, 2018.

Associated Press
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Wimbledon QF

Continued from Page 17

"It was just one of those days where you hope to get by somehow," said Federer, who last played at No. 1 Court in 2015. "I almost could have. I should have."

While his tournament is over, two of his long-time rivals at the top of tennis set up a semifinal showdown: Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic. Nadal, who's won two of his 17 Grand Slam titles at Wimbledon, edged 2009 U.S. Open champion Juan Martin del Potro 7-5, 6-7 (7), 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 in a wildly entertaining match that featured diving shots by both and lasted 4 hours, 48 minutes.

Djokovic, whose 12 major championships include three from the All England Club, got to his first Grand Slam semifinal since 2016 by beating No. 24 seed Kei Nishikori 6-3, 3-6, 6-2, 6-2.

In Friday's other men's match, Anderson will face No. 9 John Isner, the 33-year-old American who reached his first major semifinal in his 41st try by eliminating 2016 runner-up Milos Raonic 6-7 (5), 7-6 (7), 6-4, 6-3. Isner hit 25 aces, saved the only break point he faced, and has won all 95 of his service games in the tournament.

Federer hadn't been broken until facing Ander-

son. Still, the 20-time major champion was leading by two sets and 5-4 in the third when, with Anderson serving, he got to Ad-Out. He could have ended things right then and there. Federer managed to return a 134 mph serve, but on his next stroke, he shanked a backhand.

Back to deuce. From there, it all began to change. Anderson held for 5-all, broke to 6-5 with a violent return winner off a 97 mph second serve, then staved off three break points and closed the set with a 133 mph ace.

The comeback was just beginning.

"I had my chances," Federer said, "so it's disappointing."

This was only the third time in Federer's 20 years of contesting Grand Slam matches that he lost after taking the opening two sets; both of the other defeats came in 2011. And, according to the ATP, it's the fifth time Federer lost a match at a major after holding a match point, something else that last happened seven years ago.

How hard was it to see this coming?

First of all, Federer was 4-0 against Anderson, winning every set. But there was more. So much more. Federer was attempting to reach his 13th semifinal



John Isner of the United States kneels after losing a point during his men's quarterfinals match against Canada's Milos Raonic, at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, in London, Wednesday July 11, 2018.

Associated Press

at Wimbledon and move closer to title No. 9, both of which would have broken his own records.

He came into the match having won 32 consecutive sets at Wimbledon, a run he stretched to 34 before faltering.

"I just kept on telling myself, 'I have to keep believing.' I kept saying that today was going to be my day," Anderson said, "because you really need that mind-

set taking the court against somebody like Roger."

Anderson was the runner-up to Nadal at last year's U.S. Open, but he never made it beyond the fourth round at Wimbledon until this week. He hit 28 aces against Federer, saved nine of 12 break points and managed to hold his own in the rare lengthy baseline rallies.

"It's like that with the big servers," Federer said.

"You're never really safe."

As the fifth set became as much a test of mental strength as anything, from 4-all to 6-all to 8-all to 10-all, Anderson stayed steady. It was Federer who blinked, double-faulting to face a break point at 11-all, then slapping a forehand into the net.

Anderson, a 32-year-old South African who played college tennis at Illinois, served it out, ending things with a 128 mph service winner before raising both arms.

Djokovic got his wish to play in the main stadium, and he showed that he might completely be back from right elbow troubles that lasted more than a year until he finally had surgery in February.

He's been flashing some anger this fortnight and did so again in the second set, bouncing his racket off the turf after failing to capitalize on three break points at 1-all. That earned a code violation from chair umpire Carlos Ramos. When Nishikori let his own racket fly in the fourth set, he wasn't chastised, which prompted Djokovic to yell "double standards" toward Ramos — drawing boos from fans. "He claims that he didn't see what Nishikori has done, but apparently he always sees what I do," Djokovic said afterward, "something that I don't think is fair." □

Wimbledon glance: Williams to face Goerges in semifinals

LONDON (AP) — A quick look at Wimbledon:

LOOKAHEAD TO THURSDAY

Serena Williams will play in her 35th Grand Slam semifinal against an opponent appearing in her first. Julia Goerges is hoping she can pull off a massive upset against the American — despite losing to her five weeks ago at the French Open.

"It's an honor to share the court with her," Goerges said. "But I will sort out some tactics with my team ... and we'll be ready."

Williams is the big favorite to win an eighth Wimbledon title with all of the top-10

seeded women already knocked out. She's the only former champion left in the field and has a 9-1 record in semifinals at the All England Club.

She's also the lowest-ranked woman to reach the last four. The former No. 1 is only ranked 181st after only recently returning from having a baby in November.

No. 11 Angelique Kerber faces 12th-seeded Jelena Ostapenko in the other semifinal.

Kerber has a chance to set up a rematch with Williams after losing the 2016 final to the American — although



Julia Goerges of Germany returns to Kiki Bertens of the Netherlands during their women's quarterfinal match at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Tuesday July 10, 2018.

Associated Press

if she and Goerges win, it would be the first all-German women's final since 1931.

THURSDAY'S FORECAST

Mostly cloudy. High of 79 degrees (26 Celsius).

STAT OF THE DAY

41 — the number of Grand Slam appearances John Isner needed to reach his first semifinal.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I wouldn't call it 'unfinished business'. I felt like I did some good business here in the past already," eight-time champion Federer said on whether he still has unfinished business at Wimbledon. □

Croatia in World Cup final for 1st time, beats England 2-1

By RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

MOSCOW (AP) — Croatia's legs seemed heavy, burdened by the accumulated toll of consecutive penalty-kicks wins needed to get this far. England had gone ahead with a free kick just five minutes in, dominated play and appeared headed to its first World Cup final since 1966. Then the second half started and it was as if a different Croatian team had replaced the lethargic one. Ivan Perisic tied the score in the 68th minute, Mario Mandzukic got the go-ahead goal in the 109th and Croatia shocked England with a 2-1 victory Wednesday that advanced a nation of just over 4 million to a World Cup final against France. "Mentally strong team," midfielder Ivan Rakitic said. "It's just unbelievable to get back in the game in this way."

When the final whistle blew and they knew they were going to their first World Cup final, the Croatians ran to their jumping and cheering fans in their iconic red-and-white checkered jerseys. Croatia joined an exclusive club of 13 nations that has advanced to a World Cup final in a tournament where powers Brazil, Germany, Argentina and Spain made early exits.

"They've had an incredible route to the final. They've shown remarkable character," said England coach Gareth Southgate, who for now will be remembered more for a fashionable waistcoat than ending a half-century of hurt.

France, which won its only title at home in 1998, will have an extra day of rest after beating Belgium 1-0 on Tuesday.

Croatia, coming off 360 intense minutes of soccer's highest level, faces its biggest sporting moment since becoming an independent nation in 1991. Fans back home in Zagreb took to the streets to celebrate, lighting flares and waving flags in a sea of exuberance.

"We are a nation of people who never give in, who are proud and who have char-

acter," said coach Zlatko Dalic, who wore a checkered jersey to his post-match news conference. "There's no weakness in a

predicted supporters would buy 10 million extra pints at pubs during the match and No.1 Court at Wimbledon was less than one-third full

said. And Croatia defender Sime Vrsaljko kept the score even nine minutes into extra time by clearing John Stones' header off a corner

European Championship semifinals.

"Impossible to say anything to them that is going to make them feel better at this point," Southgate said after fourth straight loss in a major semifinal.

Croatia tied the score after Rakitic switched the ball from left flank to right, where Vrsaljko crossed. Kyle Walker attempted a diving header to clear. Perisic jumped and from behind raised his left boot over Walker's head to poke the ball past goalkeeper Jordan Pickford from about 8 yards for his fourth goal in the tournament.

England had its moments to come back, but Lingard failed to connect with a Kane through ball in 78th, and Kane miss-hit a header off a free kick in stoppage time. Mandzukic scored after Walker stuck out a leg to block Josip Pivacic's cross. The ball popped up and Perisic outjumped Trippier to head the ball toward goal. Mandzukic alertly reacted to the unexpected ball in the penalty area, splitting defenders Stones and Harry Maguire, who had taken four short steps up. The ball bounced twice, Mandzukic ran onto it and one-timed a low, left-footed shot to Pickford's left. Mandzukic was mobbed by teammates, who jumped on him in the corner and trapped photographers under them in the crush.

CARD COUNTING

No players are suspended for the final.

BOOS

Croatia defender Domagoj Vida was jeered by fans whenever he touched the ball. He received a warning from FIFA for shouting "glory to Ukraine" in a video posted after Croatia beat Russia in the quarterfinals. □



Croatia's Mario Mandzukic, left, scores his side's second goal during the semifinal match between Croatia and England at the 2018 soccer World Cup in the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow, Russia, Wednesday, July 11, 2018.

Associated Press

team that is in the final."

England was not among the top 10 in ticket sales before the tournament, but the team's progress caused gallivanting supporters to flock to Moscow. The front of the stands behind one goal was filled with more than two dozen white banners with a red Cross of St. George, pledging support from many of the island's clubs, from Bradford City to Wolverhampton. Back home, a crowd of 30,000 was in London's Hyde Park for a large-screen viewing, the British Beer and Pub Association

for the men's quarterfinal match between John Isner and Milos Raonic.

Promise seemed about to be fulfilled when Kieran Trippier curled in a free kick in the fifth minute for his first international goal, above leaping Dejan Lovren and Mandzukic and past the desperate dive of goalkeeper Danijel Subasic. Choruses of "God Save the Queen" began in England's end.

"We had a couple chances after that to get the second, give ourselves a bit more breathing room," England captain Harry Kane

just in front of the goal line. Croatia became the first team since Argentina beat Italy in 1990 to come from behind to win a World Cup semifinal match.

Football will not be coming home to England, and there will be no title to match the 1966 triumph at Wembley Stadium. Kane & Co. will deal with the same disappointment that felled Shearer and Platt, Gazza and Wazza, Beckham and Gerrard. And Southgate, whose penalty-kick failure led to England's previous semifinal loss in a major tournament, in the 1996



Olympic medalist Kikkan Randall announces cancer diagnosis

By **RACHEL D'ORO**

Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)

— Olympic gold medalist Kikkan Randall has been diagnosed with early stage breast cancer.

The 35-year-old cross-country skier known for pink-highlighted hair said Wednesday on social media that "the color pink has taken on a new chapter" in her life. She said the prognosis is good, but she expects life to change significantly in the months ahead.

"I am going to bring as much tenacity, strength, and energy toward this challenge as I have throughout my entire career," she wrote.

Randall, the most accomplished American cross-country skier ever, made good on her nickname "Kikkanimal" by riding her bike to and from her first round of chemo Monday in Anchorage, Alaska, her



In this Feb. 22, 2018, file photo, Gold medalist in the women's team sprint freestyle cross-country skiing, Kikkan Randall, of the United States, poses during the medals ceremony at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

Associated Press

hometown before she moved earlier this year to Penticton, British Columbia, with her 2-year-old son, Breck, and husband Jeff Ellis. She said she woke up Wednesday feeling "fairly decent still." "You always want to celebrate the gold medals together, but you know, in a way, you really see the strength of the whole community when they come to your aid when you're having a tough time," she told The Associated Press.

The pink in Randall's hair has faded, but there's a good chance she will dye the color back in during the coming days. If her hair ends up falling out because of the chemo, they'd find a "fun way" to put the pink back, she said.

She is the only American woman to win season-long World Cup titles, taking home three sprint titles. She has won 14 individual World Cup races.

After she completed her fourth Winter Games, in Sochi, Randall decided it was the right time to have a baby. So at age 32, she planned accordingly. She figured she could give birth then return to competition and qualified for Pyeongchang.

Randall will undergo six rounds of chemo every three weeks. She will stay with her parents for the next three weeks to see how she fares. If all goes well, she hopes to travel back and forth between Anchorage and Canada between rounds to be with her son and husband.

She said she has weathered past "bumps in the road," like a blood clot she was treated for a decade ago, by reaching out to others.

"Being able to share my experiences really helped me kind of process it and find the good," she said. □

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Yelich's 3 hits, 4 RBIs lead Brewers over Marlins 8-4



Milwaukee Brewers' Christian Yelich hits a double scoring Jonathan Villar and Erik Kratz during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Miami Marlins, Tuesday, July 10, 2018, in Miami.

Associated Press

By The Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Christian Yelich had three hits and four RBIs, Travis Shaw homered and Milwaukee beat Miami.

Shaw and Tyler Saladino had two RBIs each, and Milwaukee won for the seventh time in nine games. Jhoulys Chacin (8-3) allowed four runs and seven hits in 5 2/3 innings. He struck out three and walked three.

Corbin Burnes pitched two perfect innings in his major league debut for the save. Miami's Pablo Lopez (1-1) pitched six innings and allowed five runs.

PHILLIES 7, METS 3

NEW YORK (AP) — Enyel De Los Santos won his major league debut and Philadelphia got home runs from Maikel Franco and Odubel Herrera in a victory over New York.

Franco drove in four runs as the Phillies, who began the day tied with Atlanta atop the NL East, won for the 10th time in 13 games. Nick Williams had three hits and

two RBIs, and Rhys Hoskins also got three hits.

De Los Santos (1-0) allowed three runs and five hits over 6 1/3 effective innings. The 22-year-old right-hander was called up from Triple-A Lehigh Valley, where he was 9-3 with a 1.89 ERA in 16 starts, and matched against another starter making his big league debut in Drew Gagnon (0-1) of the Mets. It was the first time a Phillies starter made his debut against another starter in his first outing since Sept. 25, 1944, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

BLUE JAYS 6, BRAVES 2

ATLANTA (AP) — Russell Martin's sharp single in Toronto's five-run eighth drove in the go-ahead run, Marcus Stroman allowed pitched seven strong innings, and Toronto beat Atlanta to knock the Braves out of first place.

The Braves, who have lost six of their last seven, fell to second in the NL East after beginning the day tied with Philadelphia for the lead. Atlanta had held at least a

share of first since May 30. Toronto was limited to three hits through seven innings by Julio Teheran and Jesse Biddle, and the game was tied 1-1. The Blue Jays broke out with five hits off A.J. Minter (3-2) and Shane Bieber in the eighth.

Stroman (2-6) gave up one run and six hits with two walks in seven innings for his second win in Atlanta in two seasons.

NATIONALS 5, PIRATES 1

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Anthony Rendon hit a two-run homer, Daniel Murphy doubled twice and had four hits, and Washington beat Pittsburgh.

Rendon hit his 13th homer off starter Joe Musgrove (3-4) in the fifth inning, and Washington added three more runs in the sixth against the bullpen.

Jeremy Hellickson pitched five strong innings, and the bullpen closed it out from there. Hellickson (3-1) allowed two hits and struck out three, leaving after 67 pitches.

Bryce Harper went 0 for

5 with four strikeouts for Washington. His batting average fell to .215.

PADRES 4, DODGERS 1

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Rookie left-hander Eric Lauer came within one out of his first career complete game before allowing Max Muncy's home run, and Wil Myers homered for the sixth time in four games to lead San Diego.

Austin Hedges had a three-run shot for the Padres. Lauer (5-5) took a three-hit shutout into the ninth inning, facing the heart of the Dodgers' order after having thrown 101 pitches. He got Enrique Hernandez to fly out to center and Justin Turner to fly out to deep left before Muncy drove a 1-1 pitch into the seats in left, his 21st.

After throwing 115 pitches, Lauer made way for Kirby Yates, who struck out All-Star Matt Kemp to end it. Myers' homer to left-center on a 2-1 pitch off Rich Hill (2-4), was his eighth overall.

DIAMONDBACKS 5, ROCKIES 3

DENVER (AP) — David Peralta and A.J. Pollock homered in Arizona's four-run seventh inning, and the Diamondbacks won for the fourth straight time at Coors Field.

Nick Ahmed also went deep for Arizona.

The Diamondbacks were held in check by Colorado starter Tyler Anderson but a high pitch count ended his night after six innings. They pounced on the Rockies' bullpen in the seventh.

Jake McGee (1-3) walked Jeff Mathis, allowed a double to pinch-hitter Chris Owings before Peralta hit the first pitch he saw into the seats in right to give the Diamondbacks a 4-2 lead. Pollock hit a solo homer later in the inning off Scott Oberg.

Nolan Arenado hit his 23rd homer off Archie Bradley in the bottom of the seventh, tying him for the NL lead in that category.

Randall Delgado (2-0) tossed 1 2/3 innings in relief and Brad Boxberger pitched the ninth for his 22nd save.

CUBS 2, GIANTS 0

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Victor Caratini hit an RBI double during a decisive seventh inning, helping Chicago back Jose Quintana in a close game.

A night after losing 2-1 in 11 innings despite a strong start from Kyle Hendricks, the Cubs had enough offense for Quintana (8-6). The left-hander allowed three hits in six scoreless innings to beat the Giants for the first time in his career after going 0-3 with a 5.82 ERA over his first three starts. Addison Russell's one-out double in the seventh chased Giants starter Derek Holland (5-8).

Russell advanced on Sam Dyson's wild pitch and scored on a bad throw by catcher Nick Hundley trying to get Russell at third. Caratini later doubled.

Carl Edwards Jr. struck out the side in order in the seventh, Justin Wilson followed with a perfect eighth and Steve Cishek closed it out for his third save after taking the loss Monday. □

Indians allow 7 in 9th, lose to Reds 7-4 after Bauer's gem

By The Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — Joey Votto hit a go-ahead three-run double during a seven-run ninth inning and the Cleveland Indians bullpen wasted a gem from Trevor Bauer in a 7-4 loss to the Cincinnati Reds on Tuesday night.

Indians closer Cody Allen (2-4) allowed six runs after getting two outs in the ninth, the last three charged on Votto's sharp hit to right off Dan Otero. Adam Duvall also doubled in two in the ninth, while Jose Peraza and Eugenio Suarez each hit an RBI single. Cincinnati had seven straight batters reach with two outs, and the inning didn't end until Scooter Gennett ran into the third out at third base on Suarez's single.

Cleveland's bullpen entered Tuesday with a 5.13 ERA, better only than the Rockies (5.28) and Royals (5.35).

Bauer was brilliant, striking out 12 over eight scoreless innings in his first appearance since being named to the All-Star team for the first time. The right-hander allowed three singles, walked one and didn't allow a hit until Jesse Winker hit a one-out single in the fifth.

Former Cleveland reliever Kyle Crockett (1-0) recorded the final two outs in the eighth, and Raisel Iglesias worked the ninth for his second save in two nights and his 19th of the season.

RED SOX 8, RANGERS 4

BOSTON (AP) — Andrew Benintendi bolstered his All-Star credentials with a pair of doubles and two RBIs in his final game before fan votes are tallied, and Boston extended its winning streak to eight games.

Jackie Bradley Jr. hit a pair of RBI doubles and Xander Bogaerts hit a two-run triple as Boston scored five runs in the third and won for the 15th time in 18 games.

Matt Barnes (3-2) got the win with one inning of relief. He was the fourth of five relievers the Red Sox rode to another victory and improve on the best record in the majors.

Rougned Odor homered



Cincinnati Reds' Joey Votto watches his three-run double off Cleveland Indians relief pitcher Dan Otero during the ninth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, July 10, 2018, in Cleveland. Adam Duvall, Scott Schebler and Dilson Herrera scored on the play. The Reds won 7-4.

and Joey Gallo hit a two-run double for the Rangers, who have lost four of five.

Yovani Gallardo (3-1) made it through the first two innings without allowing a baserunner, but ran into trouble in the third.

RAYS 5, TIGERS 2

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Wilson Ramos hit a three-run homer, five Tampa Bay pitchers combined on a five-hitter and the Rays beat Detroit.

The Rays moved three games above .500 for the first time since Aug. 6 last year after posting their 13th win in the last 14 home games.

Ramos, elected to start at catcher for the AL in next week's All-Star Game, keyed a five-run third inning when he connected off Matthew Boyd (4-8) for his 14th homer. That tied John Flaherty (1999) for the most in a season by a Tampa Bay catcher.

Ryne Stanek pitched two innings as the opener for the Rays on their latest bullpen day. He allowed a first-

inning single to Niko Goodrum. Jose Alvarado (1-3) and Jaime Schultz followed Stanek, and both went two hitless innings.

ORIOLES 6, YANKEES 5

BALTIMORE (AP) — Manny Machado hit two home runs, Jonathan Schoop singled in the winning run with two outs in the ninth inning, and Baltimore rallied past New York.

Greg Bird homered and drove in four runs for the Yankees, who own an inexplicable 4-5 record against the last-place Orioles.

Machado brought the Orioles back from deficits of 3-2 and 5-3 before Schoop won it in the ninth against Dellin Betances (1-3).

Zach Britton (1-0) worked the ninth for Baltimore.

ASTROS 6, ATHLETICS 5, 11 INNINGS

HOUSTON (AP) — Alex Bregman homered twice and his tapper just in front of the plate in the 11th inning led to a bizarre play that ended the game, as catcher Jonathan Lucroy's throwing error handed Houston a

wild victory over Oakland. Justin Verlander pitched six sharp innings and the Astros took a 4-0 lead into the ninth before Oakland tied it. All-Star closer Blake Treinen (5-2) took the loss. He had converted 20 straight save chances since April 18.

CARDINALS 14, WHITE SOX 2

CHICAGO (AP) — Dexter Fowler broke out of a slump with his fourth career grand slam, Miles Mikolas tossed six innings of three-hit ball and St. Louis routed Chicago.

Kolten Wong had four hits, including a two-run homer and a double, as every Cardinals starter except All-Star catcher Yadier Molina got at least one hit. Jose Martinez had three hits and two RBIs.

Fowler's first homer since May 6 capped a seven-run sixth. Mikolas (10-3), selected to his first All-Star team Sunday, allowed two runs and struck out six.

White Sox starter Dylan Covey (3-5) lasted five innings, allowing five runs

(four earned) and nine hits. The right-hander lost his fourth straight decision and has an 11.70 ERA in his last five starts.

ROYALS 9, TWINS 4

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Adalberto Mondesi had a three-run homer and a career-high four RBIs to help Kansas City snap a 10-game skid.

The Royals scored more than five runs for the first time since June 4 and improved to 26-65 overall, percentage points ahead of Baltimore to avoid owning baseball's worst record. Mondesi went deep in the second inning and added an RBI single in the sixth. The middle infielder entered with just six RBIs in 17 games this year.

Royals right-hander Ian Kennedy made his first start since landing on the disabled list with a strained left oblique. He pitched just three innings after experiencing a recurrence of left side tightness.

Brian Flynn (1-1) allowed one hit in four innings of relief to pick up the win.

Twins starter Aaron Slegers (1-1) allowed five runs and got just four outs in his second start of the year.

ANGELS 9, MARINERS 3

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Kole Calhoun and Andrelton Simmons each had three hits and two RBIs to lead Los Angeles over Seattle. The Angels got 15 hits and overcame an injury to starting pitcher Garrett Richards, who left early with right forearm irritation. He is scheduled to have an MRI on Wednesday.

Simmons hit a go-ahead double in a four-run fourth. Calhoun and Albert Pujols both homered for Los Angeles.

Seattle All-Star Mitch Haniger hit a three-run homer in the first against Richards, who exited in the third while pitching to Nelson Cruz.

Noe Ramirez (4-3), Cam Bedrosian, Jose Alvarez, Hansel Robles and Taylor Cole combined to pitch 6 1/3 shutout innings in relief. Mariners starter Mike Leake (8-6) allowed seven runs — five earned — and 11 hits in four innings.

Sagan wins hilly Tour stage as Froome avoids trouble

By ANDREW DAMPF

AP Sports Writer

QUIMPER, France (AP) —

Peter Sagan had the yellow jersey holder to thank for his victory on Stage 5 of the Tour de France on Wednesday.

Chris Froome could also thank his Team Sky colleagues for keeping him out of danger — and helping overcome a mechanical problem — in the race's first hilly stage.

Greg Van Avermaet mistimed his sprint and Sagan, the three-time reigning world champion with the Bora-Hansgrohe team, took advantage to claim his second victory in this year's event.

"I don't know if he did it on purpose or if he wanted to drop everybody but I have to say thanks," Sagan said. Van Avermaet still increased his overall lead over BMC teammate Tejay van Garderen to two seconds by gaining precious time in an intermediate bonus sprint.

After a move from Philippe Gilbert, Van Avermaet accelerated out of the final turn with 300 meters (yards) to go but couldn't maintain his pace.

"I tried to win the stage but it was pretty complicated," Van Avermaet said. "Phil went early and

he's still pretty close on GC (general classification) so I couldn't let him go. I think I went too early in the sprint. I thought the corner was closer to the finish than it really was."

In a repeat of Stage 2, Sagan held off Sonny Colbrelli in the sprint, with Gilbert finishing third.

Sagan clocked nearly five hours over the undulating leg through Brittany, which contained five categorized climbs over a 204.5-kilometer (127-mile) route from Lorient to Quimper, and resembled a single-day classic.

Gilbert, a former world champion, moved up to third overall, three seconds off the pace.

Froome, the four-time champion who trails Van Avermaet by 57 seconds in 15th spot, finished in the main pack with the other favorites.

There was a nervy moment for the British rider when he had to stop due to a mechanical issue with 70 kilometers remaining.

Teammate Michal Kwiatkowski attempted to fix the problem but Froome was later forced to stop again and change his bike.

Kwiatkowski and two other teammates then quickly escorted Froome back to the peloton.

Froome and Sky were also at the front in the finale, ceding the lead to the stage hunters only in the final kilometer.

"Everyone knew that was going to be a tricky finish today, a very undulating day — never really flat — just up and down," Froome said. "A nice day to have behind us."

"It's the kind of stage where something can be wrong and you quickly find yourself losing 30-40 seconds if you get caught out of position. It was a day to stay up front and really stay on it."

Seven riders broke away eight kilometers into the stage. The group established a lead of about four minutes as they wound along the Atlantic coast through picturesque towns like Riec-sur-Belon — which is famous for its oysters — and Pont-Aven — which inspired artists like Paul Gauguin.

While Brittany is usually rainy and windy, this time it was sunny and racing conditions were perfect. Fans waving the black-and-white striped flag of the region swarmed the climbs. Sylvain Chavanel, the 39-year-old riding in a record 18th Tour, launched a solo attack from the breakaway with 100 kilometers remaining but didn't get



Slovakia's Peter Sagan, wearing the best sprinter's green jersey, crosses the finish line ahead of Italy's Sonny Colbrelli, second right, Belgium's Philippe Gilbert, second left, and Belgium's Greg van Avermaet, left, to win the fifth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 204.5 kilometers (127 miles) with start in Lorient and finish in Quimper, France, Wednesday, July 11, 2018.

Associated Press

far.

French rider Elie Gesbert, another member of the breakaway, crashed on a short descent, ending up in a ditch and appearing to scrape his face along a stone wall. But he got back on his bike and continued. Lilian Calmejane and Tom Skujins, the last remaining members of the breakaway, were caught by the main pack with 10 kilome-

ters to go.

The Tour remains in Brittany for Stage 6 on Thursday, another hilly leg of 181 kilometers (112 miles) from Brest to Mur-De-Bretagne Guerledan, including two climbs of the short but steep Mur-de-Bretagne.

"We always see a bit of action there," Froome said. "I sometimes prefer those stages to the fast, flat stages." □



Los Angeles Lakers general manager Rob Pelinka reads a passage from "The Alchemist" by Paulo Coelho as talks about the acquisition of LeBron James and other free agents at a news conference at the NBA basketball team's headquarters in El Segundo, Calif., Wednesday, July 11, 2018.

Associated Press

GM Pelinka: Lakers landing LeBron is "ultimate validation"

By GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP) —

Rob Pelinka says the Los Angeles Lakers aren't trying to beat the Golden State Warriors at their own game. Instead, they're building a team around LeBron James to do something different.

"To get the commitment from LeBron James to come to the Lakers for four years was really the culmination of everything we've been working towards," Pelinka said.

"When LeBron chose to come here, it was the ultimate validation for the

moves we've made and what we've been building since we started."

Pelinka and top executive Magic Johnson hope the result is a sturdy, defense-minded team with enough up-tempo offense to trouble the Warriors, the Houston Rockets and every other contender for the title.

"I think to try to play the Warriors at their own game is a trap," Pelinka said.

"No one is going to beat them at their own game, so that is why we wanted to add these elements of defense and toughness and depth and try to look at ar-

reas where we will have an advantage."

Pelinka said the Lakers focused their free agency recruitment efforts on versatile, playoff-tested talents who can score and defend, instead of looking for elite players with only one specialty. He hopes the result will be a flexible, dangerous team under coach Luke Walton — and a different look around James, whose Cleveland Cavaliers teams often looked like a collection of perimeter shooters whose deficiencies were exposed by Golden State and others. □

How Apple's app store changed our world

By **MICHAEL LIEDTKE**
AP Technology Writer
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

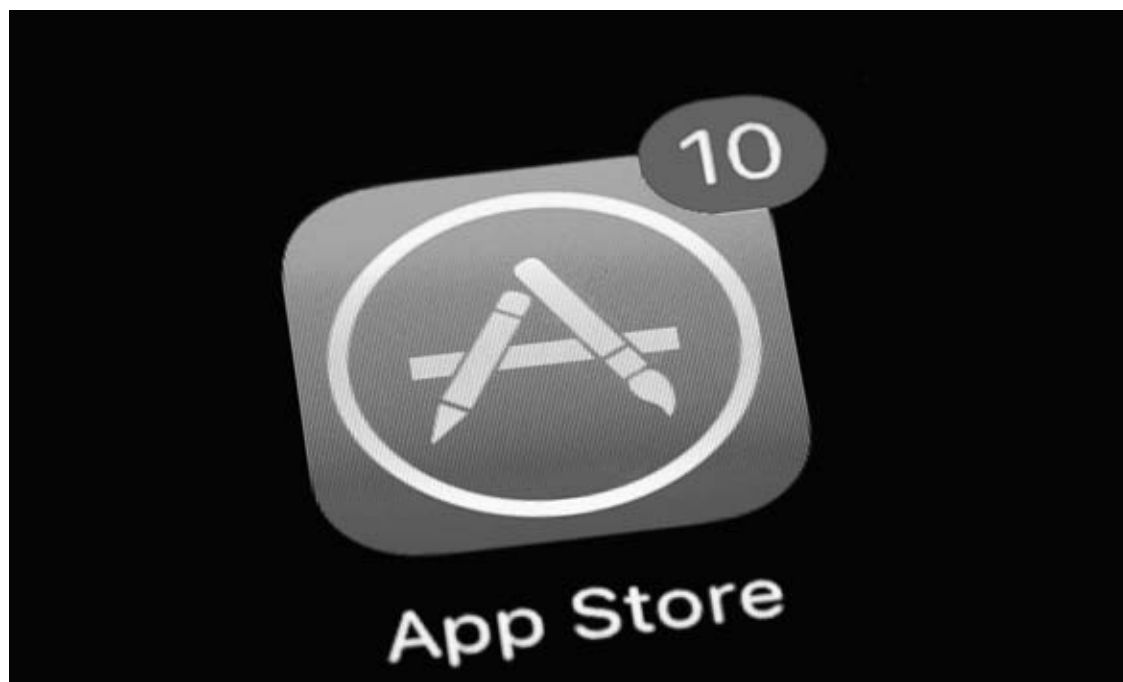
A decade ago, Apple opened a store peddling iPhone apps, unlocking the creativity of software developers and letting users truly make their mobile devices their own.

The resulting explosion of phone apps — there are now more than 2 million for the iPhone alone — has changed daily life for billions of people around the world.

It has unleashed new ways for us to work and play — and to become so distracted that we sometimes forget to look up from our screens. It has created new industries — think ride-hailing services like Uber, which would be unimaginable without mobile apps — and pumped up demand for software developers and coding schools.

But it has also opened the door to an age of technology anxiety, rife with concerns that apps are serving us a little too well and holding our attention whether we want them to or not.

IN THE BEGINNING



This March 19, 2018 file photo shows Apple's App Store app in Baltimore.

None of that was going on when Apple's app store debuted 10 years ago Tuesday. At the time, mobile phones were largely a take-it-or-leave-it proposition, with features programmed by their manufacturers and customization mostly limited to a choice between tinny electronic ringtones. The iPhone itself was still in its infancy, with only 6 million devices sold during the device's first year. Then

came the App Store, which offered 500 programs users could take or leave themselves. During its first weekend, people downloaded 10 million apps — many of them games.

Apple competitors Google, Amazon and Microsoft soon launched their own app stores. Together, these companies now offer roughly 7 million apps. Apple, meanwhile, has now sold more than a bil-

lion iPhones.

THE APP ECONOMY

That app tsunami, and the riches it generated, spawned new economic opportunities. Billions of dollars flowed into startups dependent on their apps, from Uber to Snapchat to Spotify to game makers like Angry Birds creator Rovio. Opportunities for software developers blossomed as well.

Apple perhaps benefited

most of all. Its "free" apps usually display advertising or make money from subscriptions or other in-app purchases, while others charge users to download. Apple takes a cut of this action, sometimes as much as 30 percent.

The app store is now the fastest growing part of Apple's business. Together with other Apple services, the app store generated \$33 billion in revenue over the year that ended in March. The company says it has paid out more than \$100 billion to developers during the past decade.

THE OTHER SIDE OF APPS

For all the possibilities apps have allowed, there's also a dark side.

The Center for Humane Technology, an advocacy group formed by early employees of Google and Facebook, charges that many apps are engineered specifically to capture our attention, often to our detriment. That makes them "part of a system designed to addict us," the group says.

Apple says it shares similar concerns. □



In this Tuesday, April 18, 2017, file photo, conference workers speak in front of a demo booth at Facebook's annual F8 developer conference, in San Jose, Calif.

Associated Press

By The Associated Press

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Facebook is facing its first financial penalty for allowing the data-mining firm Cambridge Analytica to forage through the personal data of millions of unknowing Facebook users.

A U.K. government office that investigated the Cambridge Analytica scandal announced its intention

to fine Facebook 500,000 pounds (\$663,000) for failing to safeguard that user information. The amount is the maximum that the agency, the Information Commissioner's Office, can levy for violation of Britain's data-privacy laws.

The penalty is a pittance for Facebook, which generates that sum roughly every seven minutes, based on its first-quarter revenue of

Facebook faces U.K. fine over its privacy scandal

\$11.97 billion. But it would represent the first tangible punishment for the company's privacy scandal, which tarnished its reputation, temporarily pushed down its shares and forced CEO Mark Zuckerberg to testify before Congress, but otherwise led to few lasting repercussions.

Cambridge Analytica, a London firm financed by wealthy Republican donors, worked for the 2016 Trump campaign and for a while employed Steve Bannon, the Trump campaign CEO and later a White House adviser.

Facebook said the company illicitly gained access to personal information of up to 87 million users via an academic intermediary, although the firm said the number was much smaller

than that. According to former Cambridge Analytica data scientist Christopher Wylie, a whistleblower, the firm aimed to construct psychographic profiles it could use to sway the votes of susceptible individuals. Cambridge Analytica shut down its business in May. The ICO investigation found that Facebook "contravened the law by failing to safeguard people's information" and didn't inform its users "about how their information was harvested by others." The office's decision isn't yet final. Facebook will have an opportunity to respond to the findings, after which the office will render a final judgment.

Damian Collins, the chairman of the U.K. Parliament's media committee, said Wednesday that the

company "should now make the results of their internal investigations known to the ICO, our committee and other relevant investigatory authorities."

Facebook's chief privacy officer, Erin Egan, said in a statement that the company is reviewing the ICO report and will respond soon. She added: "As we have said before, we should have done more to investigate claims about Cambridge Analytica and take action in 2015."

Facebook faces several other investigations, including others in Europe, a probe by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission and, reportedly, several others at federal agencies such as the FBI and the Securities and Exchange Commission. □

Trade pain: Small companies hit by import, export tariffs

By JOYCE M. ROSENBERG
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Time and effort have gone down the drain for Steve Gould, who is scrambling to find new customers for his gin, whiskey and other spirits since the United States has taken a tough stance on trade issues.

Before the European Union retaliated against new U.S. tariffs with taxes of its own, Gould expected revenue from the EU at his Golden Moon Distillery in Colorado to reach \$250,000 or \$350,000 this year. Now he's concerned that European exports will total just \$25,000. Golden Moon already saw an effect when then-candidate Donald Trump made trade an issue during the 2016 campaign. Gould lost one of his Mexican importers and an investor, as overseas demand for small-distiller spirits was growing.

"We've lost years of work and hundreds of thousands of dollars in building relationships with offshore markets," says Gould, who's hoping to find new customers in countries like Japan. President Donald Trump's aggressive trade policies are taking a toll on small U.S. manufacturers. The president has imposed tariffs of 25 percent on steel and 10 percent on aluminum imports from most of the world, including Europe, Mexico and Canada, driving up costs for companies that rely on those metals. And he has slapped 25 percent taxes on \$34 billion in Chinese imports in a separate trade dispute, targeting mostly machinery and industrial components so far. Trump's tariffs have drawn retaliation from around the world. China is taxing American soybeans, among other things; the European Union has hit Harley-Davidson motorcycles and Kentucky bourbon; Canada has imposed tariffs on a range of products — from U.S. steel to dishwasher detergent.

More businesses could be feeling the pain as the trade disputes escalate — the administration on Tues-



In this June 21, 2018, file photo, a bale of cotton sits packed and labeled waiting to be shipped from the South Central Georgia Gin Company in Enigma, Ga.

Associated Press

day threatened to impose 10 percent tariffs on thousands of Chinese products including fish, apples and burglar alarms. And China responded with a tariff threat of its own, although it didn't say what U.S. exports would be targeted.

Small businesses are particularly vulnerable to tariffs because they lack the financial resources larger companies have to absorb higher costs. Large companies can move production overseas — as Harley-Davidson recently announced it would do to escape 25 percent retaliatory tariffs in Europe. But "if you're a small firm, it's much harder to do that; you don't have an international network of production locations," says Lee Branstetter, professor of economics and public policy at Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College. Shifting manufacturing away from items that use components that are being taxed is also harder since small businesses tend to make fewer products, he says. And if tariffs make it too expensive to export to their current markets, small companies may not be able to afford the effort of finding new ones.

Small business owners have been growing more confident over the past year as the economy has been strong, and they've been hiring at a steady if not ro-

bust pace. But those hurt by tariffs are can lose their optimism and appetite for growth within a few months. "They have narrow profit margins and it's a tax," says Kent Jones, an economics professor at Babson College. "That lowers their profit margins and increases the possibility of layoffs and even bankruptcies."

Bertram Yachts is one company finding it trickier to maneuver. The U.S. has put a 25 percent tariff on hundreds of boat parts imported from China, where most marine components are made. And European countries have imposed a 25 percent tariff on U.S.-made boats. Last year, Bertram exported about a third of its boats, with half going to Europe.

"We have been squeezed on both sides," says Peter Truslow, CEO of the Tampa, Florida-based boat maker. Truslow doesn't know how the tariffs will affect the company's sales and profits, but dealers he's spoken to in Europe have already gotten cancellations on boats that run into the millions of dollars. Bertram plans to try to build up its strong U.S. business and seek more customers in countries that aren't involved in trade disputes with the U.S. including Japan and Australia.

Still, the company's growth and job creation stand to

slow. "It's probably going to be more about a reduction in hiring than it is about layoffs," Truslow says.

The ripples are being felt across the industry, says Tom Dammrich, president of the National Marine Manufacturers Association trade group. He estimates there are about 1,000 manufacturers, almost all small or mid-size businesses, and says some parts can only be bought from China.

Matt Barton's metal fabrication company, which makes custom replacement parts for farm equipment, outdoor signs and people who race hot rods, is paying its suppliers up to 20 percent more for metals than it did a year ago.

Prices had actually soared as much as 40 percent months ago amid expectations of U.S. tariffs on aluminum and steel. They have since steadied, but are expected to remain high for three to six months. Barton's Pittsboro, Indiana-

based company, The Hero Lab, is absorbing part of the increases. Some racing customers are still delaying orders.

"What they budgeted to cost \$1,000 now is now \$1,200 or \$1,500," Barton says. "They're pushing their orders back four to six weeks, waiting for a few more paychecks to come in."

Jeff Schwager's cheese company, Sartori, is selling products to Mexico at break-even prices because of that nation's retaliatory 25 percent tariff. Twelve percent of the Plymouth, Wisconsin-based company's revenue comes from exports, which is the fastest-growing segment of the business.

Sartori and its Mexican importer are each absorbing half the costs of the tariff. Schwager, the CEO, doesn't see leaving the Mexican market as an option. "If you lose space on the grocery store shelf, or you're taken out of recipes in restaurants, that takes years to get back," he says. He hopes the trade dispute can be resolved and tariffs rolled back.

But some small manufacturers believe they can benefit from a trade dispute. Greg Owens, president of flatware maker Sherrill Manufacturing, says if his competitors in China are hit by U.S. tariffs, he could see revenue increase.

"They would have to raise the retail price, which would allow us to raise our prices," says Owens, whose company is located in Sherrill, New York. In turn, Owens says, that would allow "long overdue" raises for workers and upgrades to capital equipment. □

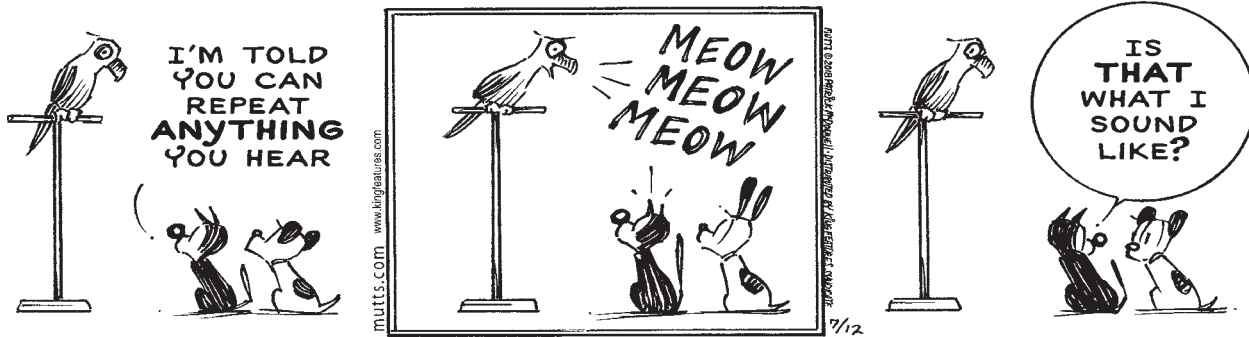
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Conceptis Sudoku

				7				3
		5					1	
	7		6	9				
6		2			1			
		3		5		7		4
			7			5		
				4	8		9	
	4					8		
3				2				

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

7/12

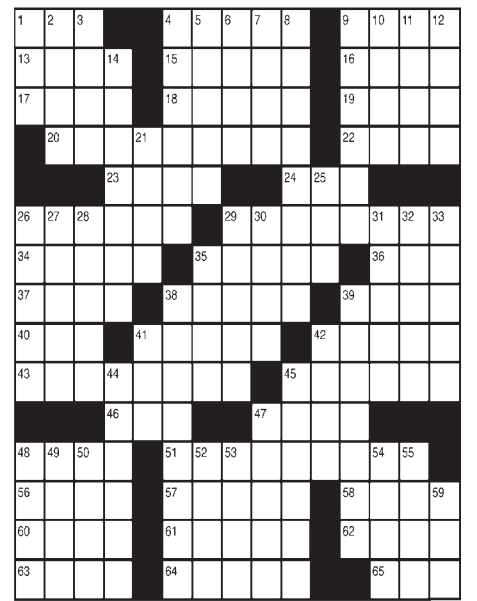
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

2	7	8	1	5	9	4	6	3
1	6	5	2	3	4	7	8	9
4	9	3	8	7	6	5	2	1
8	3	6	7	9	1	2	4	5
7	1	2	5	4	8	9	3	6
5	4	9	3	6	2	8	1	7
9	5	4	6	2	3	1	7	8
6	8	7	4	1	5	3	9	2
3	2	1	9	8	7	6	5	4

ACROSS

- WWII president
- Knight's protection
- 9-foot bathtub
- Bruce and Brandon
- Depart
- Cry from a flu shot clinic
- Slangy reply
- Refers to
- Husband or wife
- One in favor of something
- Bosom
- Makes moist
- "I Rock"; 1960s song
- Positive; cheerful
- Mind-set
- Dangerous fish
- Bawls
- Antonio, TX
- Holbrook and Linden
- Sat for an artist
- down; search for
- Suffix for host or heir
- Guthrie's namesakes
- Compel
- Backlash
- TV's Diane
- and haw
- Arrived
- "Guilty" or "Not guilty"
- Wrongly injured
- Be a couch potato
- Hawk's defense
- Test
- Monster
- Chosen few
- Irritate
- Strong desires
- Tries to find
- British custom



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

7/12/18

4 Author Louisa

- May
- Harness straps
- Partner
- Kitchen appliance
- Said again
- Battle
- Outdoor feast
- out; misbehaves
- Sharpen
- Rainfalls
- Pinnacle
- Prefix for print or quote
- Theater employee
- out; get rid of gradually
- Good wood for floats
- Firebug's crime
- up; binds
- Loan shark's crime
- Rumba or twist
- Go into
- Neighbor of Wyo.

DOWN

- Aviate
- "How is the Ocean?"; Irving Berlin song
- Tush

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

DOC	ERROR	TGIF
CURB	NAIVE	HOLE
APES	ACCEPTABLE	
BEG	SMEAR	AMISS
OTTER	PRE	
MANUAL	CARSON	
UNIFY	STACY	VET
GNAT	STALK	HERO
SIN	STEEL	LARVA
ESCHEW	RIFLED	
HAM	GUSTO	
STRAP	FROST	OFA
PROPELLERS	SKIS	
RULE	BEIGE	HENS
YELL	JANET	EDS

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7/12/18

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 38 Apes | 48 Stratagem |
| 39 Nonetheless | 49 Theater box |
| 41 Feasted | 50 Make money |
| 42 Renown | 52 Powerful wind |
| 44 Rubs enough to make sore | 53 Delight |
| 45 New Orleans team | 54 Way out |
| 47 Earthenware pot | 55 Actor Robertson |
| | 59 culpa |

Baby porcupine is 1st of its species born at Brookfield Zoo

Associated Press

BROOKFIELD, Ill. (AP) — A baby porcupine is the first of its species to be born at Brookfield Zoo.

The zoo in Chicago's western suburbs says the male baby porcupine, known as a porcupette, was born July 2. He weighed almost 1 pound (0.45 kilograms), and had soft quills that hardened after a few days. The yet-to-be-named baby's parents are Lucia and Eddie. Zoo officials say they monitored Lucia and her baby for a while before determining she wasn't allowing him to nurse. Veterinary and animal care workers are now bottle-feeding the young porcupine, and they say he's thriving.

The new prehensile-tailed porcupine, with a small, hook-like tail, will join his parents in the Hamill Family Play Zoo at approximately 10 weeks of age. □

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Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

Editor in Chief

Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)

Editors

Richard Brooks
Jeancarlo Trinidad

Sales

Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
Marijke Croes
Mary-Ann Oduber

Classifieds

Rachelle Danje
(rachelle.danje@cspnv.com)

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Jeancarlo Trinidad

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800

E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com

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Wk 29, Unit 2524 \$6,500
5th Floor/Harbor View

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5th Floor/Pool&Ocean View

Wk 32, Unit 2332 \$3,500
3rd Floor/Harbor View

Wk 33, Unit 2332 \$3,500
3rd Floor/Harbor View

Wk 34, Unit 2121 \$5,000
1st Floor/Pool View

Wk 34, Unit 2123 \$5,000
1st Floor/Pool View

Wk 34, Unit 2515 \$3,750
5th Floor/Pool View

Wk 35, Unit 2120 \$4,000
Ground Floor/Harbour View

Wk 35, Unit 2315 \$3,500
3rd Floor/Pool View

Wk 35, Unit 2349 \$6,500
3rd Floor/Ocean Front

Wk 38, Unit 2503 \$2,750
5th Floor/Ocean Front

La Cabana

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Pool View

Wk 28, Unit 112 b/c \$5,000
Pool View

Wk 30 Unit 227A \$4000

Wk 33, Unit 213C \$4,000
Garden View

Wk 35, Unit 140C/226C \$5,000
Pool View

Divi

Divi Dutch Village

Wk 9, Unit 14 \$10,000

Divi Dutch Village

Wk 17, Unit 138 \$5,000

Divi Dutch Village

Wk 19, Unit 72 \$4,000 OBO

Divi Phoenix/Ocean View

Wk 6, Unit 706 \$15,000

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Wk 25, Unit 5016 \$12,000

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Casa del Mar

Wk 34 Unit 1428 \$2,500
Pool View

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Wk 32, Unit 3526 \$6,000

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Pollution controls help red spruce rebound from acid rain

By LISA RATHKE
Associated Press

STOWE, Vt. (AP) — The gray trunks of red spruce trees killed by acid rain once heavily scarred the mountain forests of the Northeast. Now those forests are mostly green, with the crowns of red spruce peeking out of the canopy and saplings thriving below.

A main reason, scientists say, is a government-enforced reduction in the kind of air pollution that triggers acid rain.

"We've seen it go full arc from declining for some unknown reason, to figuring out the reason, to them doing something about the cause and then the tree responding and rebounding again," said Paul Schaberg, a plant physiologist with the U.S. Forest Service and a co-author of a new study on red spruce who has been researching the species since the 1980s. "It's just an amazing science arc."

In the 1960s through the 1980s, pollution — mostly from coal-powered plants in the Midwest and car emissions carried by the wind and deposited as acidic rain, snow and fog



In this June 12, 2018, photo, a healthy red spruce tree, center, grows on Mount Mansfield in Stowe, Vt.

— devastated Northeast forests and lakes, leaching nutrients from soil and killing aquatic life.

Red spruce are particularly sensitive to acid rain and, at the height of the die-off, some forests lost 50 percent of them.

But decades later, not all the environmental dam-

age is turning around at the pace of the red spruce.

Waterways are now showing signs of recovery, as are the upper layers of soil, although they are still strained by the acid deposits. Researchers are finding fish in lakes deemed fishless for years, but the populations are not large

and the variety of species is not as diverse as before, said Gregory Lawrence, a research scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey who is based in Troy, New York. In the 1980s, University of Vermont scientist Hubert Vogelmann brought national attention to the acid rain issue by linking air pollution to forest damage on the slopes of Vermont's Green Mountains. Airborne chemicals reacted with water and oxygen and then, carried by the wind, were deposited as acidic rain, snow and fog.

The images of dead trees littering mountains in the 1980s helped inspire changes to the Clean Air Act in 1990. The amendments proposed by President George H.W. Bush in 1989 mandated reductions in certain gas emissions and boosted regulation of toxic pollutants.

The first signs of healthier red spruce trees in the

northeastern U.S. came about five years ago, scientists said, and they decided to take a closer look. The researchers examined 658 red spruce trees in 52 plots in Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, Massachusetts and Maine. They found that 75 percent of the trees and 90 percent of the plots showed increasing growth since 2001. They credit cleaner air and a warming climate that extended the growing season.

"Higher temperatures help some species and hurt others — right now, red spruce are benefiting, but they could be vulnerable to change in the future," Schaberg said.

Similar trends are emerging in the Appalachian Mountains in West Virginia, which were also hit by acid rain, according to a recent report in the *Global Change Biology* journal.

The two studies provide further evidence that addressing causes of acid rain helped the species recover, said Timothy Fahey, a forest ecologist and professor at Cornell University.

That recovery should help efforts to restore red spruce forests to mountains in central Appalachia, where they were heavily logged in the late 1800s and early 1900s, reducing the habitat for the now-endangered Carolina northern flying squirrel.

Last month in Vermont, Schaberg was hiking through the woods on Mount Mansfield, Vermont's highest peak, with Alexandra Kosiba, lead researcher for their study in the journal *Science of the Total Environment*. They found red spruce at middle elevations and higher that were thriving. The trees were surrounded by saplings, and seed-bearing cones lay on the ground.

"This is a good sign that the species is doing well in the near term, and then the future forests will have red spruce," said Kosiba, a staff scientist for the Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Cooperative at the University of Vermont. □

Chinese find suggests human relatives left Africa earlier

By EMILIANO R. MEGA
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Stone tools recovered from an excavation in China suggest that our evolutionary forerunners trekked out of Africa earlier than we thought. Until now, the oldest evidence of human-like creatures outside Africa came from 1.8 million-year-old artifacts and skulls found in the Georgian town of Dmanisi. But the new find pushes that back

by at least 250,000 years. "It's absolutely a new story," said archaeologist Michael Petraglia of the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History in Jena, Germany, who did not participate in the study. "It means that early humans were getting out of Africa way earlier than we ever realized." That exit came long before our own species, *Homo sapiens*, even appeared. The researchers believe

the tools were made by another member of the *Homo* evolutionary group. The items included several chipped rocks, fragments and hammer stones. The 96 artifacts were dug up in an area known as the Loess Plateau, north of the Qinling mountains, which divide the north and south of China. Some of them were as old as 2.1 million years, according to the study in Wednesday's journal *Nature*. □

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Good Charlotte to headline benefit concert for 5 slain

By MESFIN FEKADU

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The city of Annapolis will hold a benefit concert featuring Maryland-based rockers Good Charlotte to honor the five Capital Gazette employees killed in an attack in their newsroom.

Mayor Gavin Buckley said Wednesday the event dubbed "Annapolis Rising: A Benefit for The Capital Gazette and Free Press" will take place July 28 and will include performances, as well as guest speakers from the journalism community. Information on tickets will be available at a later date. Proceeds will benefit a fund established for the victims and survivors, as well as journalism scholarships.

Police say gunman Jarrod

Ramos, who had a grudge against the newspaper, blasted his way into the Annapolis newsroom on June 28, killing John McNamara, Wendi Winters, Rob Hiaasen, Rebecca Smith and Gerald Fischman. Ramos remains jailed on five counts of first-degree murder.

Good Charlotte, which includes twin brothers Joel and Benji Madden, said in an interview they are proud to return to their roots to pay tribute to the community.

"I feel everything starts at home, it starts in your community and this is the place in Maryland that we come from. This is the place we go back to. We feel very, very deeply connected to Annapolis and it's a very important place to us. □



In this Tuesday, July 10, 2018, photo, Benji Madden and his twin brother Joel Madden of the band Good Charlotte pose for a portrait, in Burbank, Calif.

Associated Press

Years of dues led Carolina Story to stellar debut

By SCOTT STROUD

Associated Press

Carolina Story, "Lay Your Head Down" (Black River Americana)

Ben Roberts comes from Arkansas, his wife Emily is from South Dakota, and they met in Memphis a decade ago. But Nashville was always their destiny.

The couple's debut album, "Lay Your Head Down," pulsates with achy, heartfelt sentiment, delivered in tender harmony against a warmly pastoral background.

For nearly 10 years, the duo said yes to every gig request, performing in nursing homes, churches and bars. The response was encouraging, but success was not immediate.

Still, talent this big is hard to keep down. Several odd jobs and two babies later, it landed them a record deal.

On the opening title cut, a mournful train whistle of a harmonica lays the groundwork for Ben plaintive tenor. □



This cover image released by Black River shows "Lay Your Head Down," by Carolina Story.

Associated Press

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In 'Skyscraper,' the Rock towers over action tropes

By **JAKE COYLE**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — I like to imagine what King Kong, as a popcorn-chomping moviegoer, might make of "Skyscraper," the latest summer actioner starring Dwayne Johnson. Would he, watching a goliath ascend the exterior of a high-rise with helicopters and klieg lights swirling, woundedly mumble, "Hey, that's my gig." But in Rawson Marshall Thurber's thriller, there is Johnson steadily — and without too much trouble, really — swinging up a 100-story-high crane to then leap across a mammoth chasm and land in an open window on the burning 220-story tower where his wife and twin kids are trapped. It goes without saying that if you're the sort to scoff at a tale's implausibility, "Skyscraper" may not be the movie you're looking for. Experts in fields including physics, thermodynamics and screenwriting should proceed cautiously. But then again, few go to a movie starring the Rock and a tall building (they do have great chemistry) for



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Neve Campbell, left, and Dwayne Johnson in a scene from "Skyscraper."

Associated Press

sensible and realistic rescue methods. They go for the dumb fun, the crazy stunts and, above all, the Kong-sized appeal of Johnson, the towering movie star whose on-screen powers easily exceed those of any other action star today, superhero or not. The Hong Kong-set "Skyscraper" is a kind of West-

meets-East "Die Hard," but without the gritty flair of John McTiernan's film, nor anything like the villainous heights of Alan Rickman's Hans Gruber. Johnson's protagonist, too, is a polished family man, the inverse of Bruce Willis' unshaven divorcee. Johnson plays Will Sawyer, a former military man who, after a haunting hostage encounter, has become a security systems consultant.

"I put my sword down," says Sawyer, who has a prosthetic leg from the incident a welcome touch in a movie world where disabilities are seldom represented. Along with his former combat surgeon wife (the nice-to-see-again Neve Campbell, whose part exceeds the stereotypical spouse role) and their two kids (McKenna Roberts, Noah Cottrell), Sawyer is in Hong Kong to ready the security

for "The Pearl," a state-of-the-art skyscraper promoted as three times the size of the Empire State Building. With a swirling turbine midway up and a tennis ball-like sphere at the top, it looks a little like a giant World Cup trophy. The building is the pride of billionaire developer Zhao Long Ji (Chin Han), who has filled it with extravagant attractions, like a kind of digital hall-of-mirrors that will inevitably serve as the setting for a "Lady From Shanghai"-like shootout. He presides over it from the penthouse, more than 100 floors above anyone else in the unfinished high rise. The Singaporean star Han is one of the many Asian actors who populate the film, clearly fashioned to appeal as much to Chinese filmgoers as American ones, though their roles are largely peripheral. Sawyer's family is installed on floor 96, a precarious spot when, just below them, a band of terrorists led by Kores Botha (a ho-hum Roland Moller) sets a floor on fire, blazing a crimson line across the night skyline. ("Skyscraper" is lensed by Robert Elswit and it regularly looks better than you'd expect it to.) □

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<p>ADAM SANDLER SELENA GOMEZ</p> <p>HOTEL TRANSILVANIA 3</p> <p>MON-THURS 4:30 6:40 8:50 FRIDAY 4:30 6:40 8:50 11:00 SATURDAY 2:20 4:30 6:40 8:50 11:00 SUN & HOL 2:20 4:30 6:40 8:50</p>	<p>DWAYNE JOHNSON NEVE CAMPBELL</p> <p>SKYSCRAPER</p> <p>CXC PREMIUM LARGE FORMAT AUDITORIUM 2D MON-THURS 4:35 6:55 9:15 FRIDAY 4:35 6:55 9:15 11:35 SATURDAY 2:15 4:35 6:55 9:15 11:35 SUN & HOL 2:15 4:35 6:55 9:15</p> <p>MON-THURS & SUN 3:50 6:10 8:30 FRIDAY-SATURDAY 3:50 6:10 8:30 10:50</p>
<p>PAUL RUDD EVANGELINE LILLY</p> <p>ANTHONY JOSEPH</p> <p>WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON-FRIDAY 4:15 6:50 9:25 SAT & SUN 1:45 4:15 6:50 9:25</p>	<p>MARISA TOMEI Y'LAN NOEL</p> <p>THE FIRST PURGE</p> <p>MON-THURS 4:55 7:15 9:35 FRIDAY 4:55 7:15 9:35 11:55 SATURDAY 2:35 4:55 7:15 9:35 11:55 SUN & HOL 2:35 4:55 7:15 9:35</p>
<p>SANDRA BULLOCK CATE BLANCHETT</p> <p>OCEAN'S 8</p> <p>WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON-FRI 4:30 6:55 SAT & SUN 2:05 4:30 6:55</p>	<p>CHRIS PRATT JEFF GOLDBLUM</p> <p>JURASSIC WORLD</p> <p>WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON-SUN 3:45 6:25 9:10</p>
<p>SAMUEL L. JACKSON CRAIG T. NELSON</p> <p>INCREDIBLES 2</p> <p>MON-THURS 5:50 8:30 FRIDAY 5:50 8:30 11:10 SATURDAY 3:10 5:50 8:30 11:10 SUNDAY 3:10 5:50 8:30</p>	<p>SYLVESTER STALLONE DAVE BAUTISTA</p> <p>ESCAPE</p> <p>MON-THURS & SUN 9:20 FRI & SAT 9:20 11:30</p>

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Original Winnie-the-Pooh map breaks auction record

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The original hand-drawn map of Winnie-the-Pooh's Hundred Acre Woods has sold at auction for 430,000 pounds (\$571,000), a record price for a book illustration. E.H. Shepard's drawing sold at Sotheby's in London on Tuesday for almost three-times its pre-sale estimate. Shepard's 1926 sketch features beloved characters including Pooh and Christopher Robin, and landmarks including "Bee Tree" and "Eeyore's Gloomy Place." It was last sold in 1970 for 1,700 pounds. Shepard's illustrations helped cement the popularity of A.A. Milne's "bear



In this photo dated May 31, 2018, Philip W. Errington holds the original map of Winnie-the-Pooh's Hundred Acre Wood by E H Shepard.

Associated Press

of very little brain" and his woodland friends. In 2014, an ink drawing of the characters playing the game poohsticks sold for a then-record 314,500

pounds. The map and four other Shepard Winnie-the-Pooh illustrations sold for a total of 917,500 pounds at Tuesday's auction. □

Show tells backstory of icons like Rushmore, Lady Liberty

By BETH J. HARPAZ
Associated Press

Did you know that the original symbolism of the Statue of Liberty had nothing to do with welcoming immigrants?

And that Mount Rushmore was basically built as a scheme to get road-trippers to make the trip out to South Dakota?

You'll hear the inside story on these icons and others from Geoffrey Baer, host of the PBS television series "10 That Changed America," in three new episodes airing this summer. In addition to famous monuments, other episodes focus on streets that changed America — like New York's Broadway — and on modern marvels like the Hoover Dam.

Baer is based in Chicago, where he works for the local public television station WTTW and also gives tours for the Chicago Architecture Foundation.

He spoke about the show and the backstory of some of the monuments featured in the episode airing July 17 in an interview with AP Travel's weekly podcast "Get Outta Here!" Here are



In this Dec. 9, 2016, file photo, the faces of the presidents that make up the Mount Rushmore monument are shown near Keystone, S.D.

some excerpts from the podcast, edited for brevity and clarity.

MOUNT RUSHMORE

When cars were a new form of transportation, "a state official in South Dakota really didn't think in the early days of the road trip that scenery was going to be enough" to lure people to drive all the way there,

Baer said. So he decided to "create the world's biggest roadside attraction." Originally the carvings were going to depict heroes of the American West, but that wasn't deemed a big enough draw, so the concept was changed to presidents.

STATUE OF LIBERTY

The Statue of Liberty was a

gift from France to America, but what was the meaning of the gift?

Baer says America was seen in the late 19th century as a "beacon of democracy and freedom" in an era when French democracy was eroding. So the French used the statue as a way of sending "a message" to their own country

by giving "America a gift of this great French figure of liberty."

The statue is often romanticized as a symbol of welcome for immigrants, partly due to its location within sight of Ellis Island, where millions of immigrants arriving in the U.S. were processed.

They could see Lady Liberty as their ships pulled into the harbor. But Ellis Island didn't open until 1892, six years after the statue was dedicated in 1886.

"So it wasn't until later that the statue took on this additional new meaning as a kind of beacon to immigrants," Baer said.

LINCOLN MEMORIAL

Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation declaring "all persons held as slaves" to be free. But almost nothing at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., mentions slavery.

That's because the intended message of the Lincoln Memorial was "that the Civil War was really brother against brother and now we've reconciled," Baer said. □

Associated Press

'A Terrible Country' is a wonderful novel

By ANN LEVIN
Associated Press

"A Terrible Country: a Novel" (Viking), by Keith Gessen With the United States in an uproar about Russian meddling in its election, it's a good time to brush up on the country's former Cold War enemy. Here to help is Russian-born emigre Keith Gessen, whose hilarious, heartbreaking second novel, "A Terrible Country," may be one of the best books you'll read this year.

The novel is narrated by 33-year-old Andrei, who, like the author, is a Soviet Jew who came to the United States at age 6, and it recounts the year he spent in Moscow taking care of his aging grandmother.

He moved back on the eve of the 2008 financial meltdown at the behest of his businessman brother, Dima, who had to flee the country suddenly after get-

ting on the wrong side of the oligarchs. While Andrei is initially put out by Dima's request, he isn't unhappy to leave New York. His girlfriend has just dumped him, and he's hoping the change of scenery might jump-start his stalled academic career.

But unbeknownst to Andrei, Baba Seva has dementia and is hard of hearing. And since Dima has already sublet his apartment across the hall, Andrei has to move into their old bedroom. Oh, the humiliation!

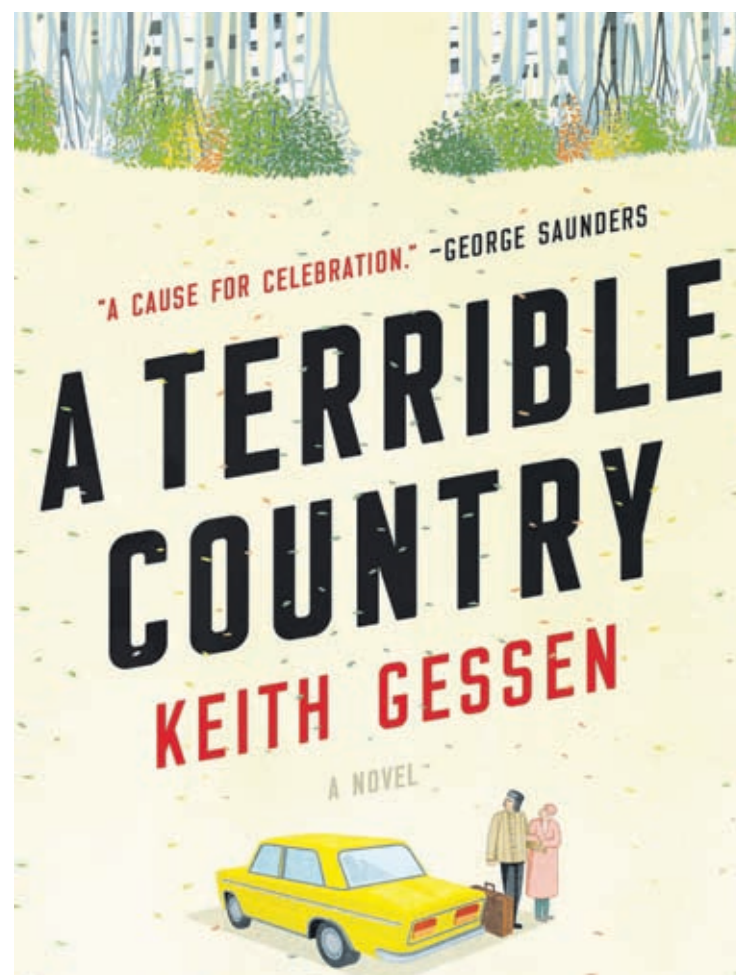
One of the pleasures of the novel is listening to Andrei's hyper-intelligent, wry and ironic voice. At times he can be petty and arrogant, self-righteous and ingratiating, not to mention slightly clueless about women. Here he is, noticing all the gorgeous blond women in black pencil skirts on Moscow's streets. "I don't know

why I liked the fact that they all looked alike, but I did."

But basically Andrei is a good guy who feels guilty when he gets impatient with his grandmother and offers up incisive, politically charged commentary on the sweeping changes under way in Putin's Russia.

The other unforgettable character is Andrei's grandmother, an indomitable force of nature. Gessen's portrait of her is tender, and readers will be hard-pressed to find a more nuanced and poignant depiction of what it means to lose your memory.

Indeed, Baba Seva is the one who lends the novel its title. Early on, she can't remember who Andrei is or why he's in Moscow. When he reminds her, she gets upset. "This is a terrible country," she says to him. "My (daughter) took you. □



This cover image released by Viking shows "A Terrible Country," a novel by Keith Gessen.

Associated Press

Coffee and conservation: Mozambique tries both on a mountain

By **CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA**
Associated Press

MOUNT GORONGOSA, Mozambique (AP) — At Mozambique's Mount Gorongosa — where farmers are being encouraged to grow coffee in the shade of hardwood trees, both to improve their own lot and to restore the forest — there is a point beyond which visitors are told not to go. The problem: Base camps of Mozambique's main opposition force sit on the cloud-shrouded mountain, a redoubt that was the scene of military incursions and civilian flight in the last few years.

There were times when managers of the coffee-and-conservation project couldn't go anywhere near the mountain because of the conflict, or had to walk up because the opposition had blocked the road with logs to prevent the military bringing up equipment. With a lull in tension, they are pushing ahead with plans to plant more coffee and trees on a mountain that captures rainfall and supplies the rivers sustaining people and wildlife living around its base.

It is among the more complex conservation efforts in southern Africa, a bid to convince farmers to abandon old-slash-and-burn methods of farming and commit to the longer-term yield of coffee on the same plots, while maintaining government support for a project in an area that harbors an opposition militia.



In this photo provided by Jen Guyton, a worker, with a bag of fertiliser on his back, passes coffee plants with green cherries, at Mount Gorongosa, in Mozambique.

Associated Press

The threat of drought and climate change also loom over a project driven by the idea that human development and ecological restoration must work in concert if there is any hope for both to succeed. "We've had huge troubles working here," said Quentin Haarhoff, a veteran farmer of coffee around Africa who doesn't let hard realities sap his optimism. Haarhoff acts for a non-profit group founded by American philanthropist Greg Carr that is collaborating with Mozambique's government to rehabilitate Gorongosa National Park, a rich ecosystem whose animals are recovering after war and poaching. To do that, the thinking goes,

the poor people around the park's edges must become stakeholders in their natural heritage rather than remain spectators to the occasional tourist influx, as was the case under the Portuguese colonial rulers who left in 1975. Scientists settled on coffee as an alternative tool in a broader restoration plan for the mountain because the 90 hardwood trees planted for every hectare (2.5 acres) of coffee provide shade that the crop needs to thrive.

A sustainable mosaic of cultivation and natural forest is envisioned, and farmers are encouraged to cultivate bananas, pineapples and other crops amid coffee plantations, providing fertilizer for the coffee from falling foliage.

"The bulk of the nutrition of the coffee plant comes from a very, very shallow layer of soil which we never want to disturb," said Haarhoff, a white farmer from Zimbabwe who lost his coffee plantation during often violent land seizures there nearly two decades ago. "What we're doing essentially here by growing these other crops is restoring the natural hydrology of the soil here. It's turning into a sponge," he said. "Now things are easier and calmer. We can cultivate," said

Randinho Faduco, a coffee farmer who is benefiting from a truce between the Renamo (the Portuguese acronym for Mozambican National Resistance) opposition group and the ruling Frelimo (Mozambique Liberation Front) party. A post-colonial civil war between the two adversaries killed up to one million people and ended in 1992, though disputes over power flared into violence as recently as 2016. Designed to help hundreds of families on and around Mount Gorongosa, the coffee project is supported by Carr's foundation, the Norwegian government and the Global Environment Facility, a group of 183 coun-

tries, international institutions and other entities. The annual budget is expected to expand to between \$1 million and \$2 million.

The rainforest of Mount Gorongosa, whose highest peak is 1,863 meters (6,112 feet), is home to pygmy chameleons and other rare species.

The mountain, a source of traditional creation stories, is under severe pressure from the rampant, corruption-fueled deforestation across Mozambique that supplies a foreign market, primarily China. Scientists estimate that it has lost about 40 percent of its original forest since 1970, though they are designing a reforestation program that respects open grasslands found naturally in the area and that contain plant species such as the protea shrub, with its distinctive large flower.

Mozambique isn't a coffee producer on a par with African industry giants such as Ethiopia and Uganda, and production goals at Gorongosa are relatively modest. About 40 hectares (100 acres) of arabica coffee plants are in the ground; farmers plan to plant another 100 hectares (250 acres) this year and a total of about 1,000 hectares (2,470 acres) over the next decade, all in areas that are being farmed or were farmed in the past.

The first harvest comes four years after planting, and each hectare yields 2 to 3 tons of coffee beans. □



In this photo provided by Jen Guyton, workers fertilise coffee plants, on Mount Gorongosa, in Mozambique.

Associated Press



In this photo provided by Jen Guyton a worker, passes young coffee plants in a plant nursery, on Mount Gorongosa, in Mozambique.

Associated Press